



# HELLO!

SPECIAL COLLECTORS' EDITION



# HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II

IN TRIBUTE TO HER EXTRAORDINARY LIFE AND REIGN

ALL THE BEST PHOTOS AND EXCLUSIVE REPORTS, FAMILY ALBUMS, HISTORIC MOMENTS AND OUR RECORD-BREAKING MONARCH'S IMPACT AROUND THE GLOBE



# HELLO!

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# A TRIBUTE TO OUR QUEEN

**H**er Majesty Queen Elizabeth II was quite simply an icon. Our greatest, longest-reigning monarch in history, with 70 years on the British throne, and a figurehead who was revered and loved in equal measure across the globe.

Her death has had a profound impact on us all; it has been deeply moving and it will take some time to come to terms with this loss as the reminders of our former sovereign exist everywhere, from the coins and banknotes in our pockets to the image of her face so clearly etched in our minds.

The Queen was an inspirational leader, a head of state in 15 countries. Dignified, committed, kind, she rose above gossip and she saw the humanity in difficult times. She never complained and was the consummate professional. She was a matriarch with four children, eight grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren, who all loved her deeply.

Yet, despite her level of fame and privilege, she had a unique way to make us all feel that

we were close to her. She was the grandmother of the nation too; a trailblazer who could connect with all generations, with her sparkling eyes, immaculate style and a brilliant sense of humour (just ask Paddington Bear).

In this special tribute edition, we take you through her incredible life and reign. We chart her story: a journey that was extraordinary from day one, to the moment, aged just 21, when she dedicated her life to the service of her peoples – a commitment that was to define her whole life. It turned out to be more than a promise; it was a profound personal commitment and there were many sacrifices she made for duty.

In these pages, we look back on the ways in which the Queen has seen our world change radically. She has helped us feel calm and supported through wars, economic hardship and during the global pandemic, and in times of celebration and progress, she has cheered us on. She has also weathered her own heartbreak and challenges to serve the crown.

I take comfort in the fact that we as a nation were able to celebrate our Queen during each of her jubilee celebrations, most recently in June when we took to the streets and partied at Buckingham Palace to mark her Platinum Jubilee and pay tribute to her. We reflect on all of these moments, too.

And we look ahead to the reign of His Majesty King Charles III. I hope we can give him and his Queen Consort, Camilla, all the support we showed his “Darling Mama”, knowing that we are honouring her wish for the future of the monarchy.

Queen Elizabeth II has been the best possible guiding example of what a great sovereign should be. The brightest star of all.

Thank you for everything, Ma’am – this is for you.

**Editor in chief ROSIE NIXON  
and the whole HELLO! team.**









# A LIFE OF SERVICE

*From her earliest years through to her final days, our Queen was devoted to her people*

Reflecting on a remarkable reign: The Queen on her Diamond Jubilee in 2012 (main photo); and (above) in 1955, three years into her 70-year reign. Her Majesty has been a unique constant for the nation through seven decades of social, political, cultural and technological change

**W**hen she pledged herself, aged just 21, to a life of service to the people of Britain and the Commonwealth, few could have predicted just how long her commitment would endure.

Princess Elizabeth went on to make history as Queen Elizabeth II, the country's longest-reigning monarch and the first to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee.

Remarkably, 75 years after her solemn vow to serve and, despite failing health, she renewed her pledge, while also setting out her hopes for a future country and Commonwealth under King Charles III.

The young Princess was not born to be Queen, but became heir presumptive aged

ten, when her uncle, Edward VIII, abdicated to marry the US divorcée Wallis Simpson. With her destiny as a future monarch determined, she nevertheless found herself propelled into the role much earlier than expected following the sudden death of her father George VI.

No monarch has ever been confronted by so much change – at times alarming, at times exciting. When she came to the throne in 1952, as a 25-year-old mother of two very young children, few people had a TV set, barely one in five adults owned a car and the internet did not exist.

The second Elizabethan era began in post-war Britain and spanned the troubles in Northern Ireland, the era of the three-day week in the early 1970s, the









The Queen and Duke of Edinburgh leave Perth on the final day of their tour of Australia in 2011 (above) – she visited more than 120 countries in her lifetime. Her Majesty reading official Government correspondence in her study at Balmoral Castle, 1972 (below) – a duty she carried out with steadfast regularity, even in her last years when unable to carry out engagements in person



## No monarch has ever been confronted by so much change – at times alarming, at times exciting

Falklands War, the miners' strike and the poll tax riots. It saw the removal of most hereditary peerages, the legalisation of same-sex marriage, and a new millennium. It has finally ended in our modern age of virtual currencies, electric cars and the Covid-19 pandemic.

As the world underwent social, political, cultural and technological changes the Queen embraced the new, whether using social media or holding virtual audiences in her final years.

She became the most travelled monarch in history, visiting more than 120 countries and saying: "I have to be seen to be believed."

With her "strength and stay" the Duke of Edinburgh at her side, she modernised the monarchy to adapt to changing times, but her devotion to her duties remained unwavering.

She continued to work to the last week of her life, attending to papers in her famous red despatch boxes even while unable to carry out engagements in person. And despite difficult personal times – the divorces of three of her children, the legal woes of her son the Duke of York and the loss of her beloved husband – she never deviated from her commitment to duty.

Indeed, her steadfast presence and her winning blend of the traditional and modern made her a beacon of stability, providing reassurance in an ever-changing world.

On the global stage, especially in the Commonwealth, her ability to convene the great and the good was unmatched, giving her an unparalleled insight into world affairs, all while remaining politically neutral.

And at times of crisis she was able to comfort and unite people with a well-timed public address or gesture.

One of her priorities throughout her reign was to meet, and listen, to her subjects, which saw her become the world's expert at the walkabout, always distinguishable from the crowds in her trademark vibrant colours.

Her unmistakable image – immaculately curled hair, white gloves and trusty black Launer handbag – echoed the stability associated with her reign and made her the most recognisable woman in the world.

### A NEW CHAPTER

This new chapter in our history will feel strange to so many as the Queen's silhouette is replaced on banknotes, coins and stamps and her presence – so deeply ingrained in our national psyche – is no longer felt.

But, while her incredible reign is unlikely to be matched, she leaves an amazing example of service, duty and selflessness.

Now is a time for mourning – for Her Majesty, her family and the nation. But then we must look to the future and the generations she has inspired.

As she told the 2021 Cop26 summit in her address: "We none of us will live for ever. But we are doing this not for ourselves, but for our children and our children's children and those who will follow in their footsteps."

Over the following pages we look back on the life of a monarch who has left an indelible mark on all of our lives.






The Queen and Prince Philip pose in the Centre Room of Buckingham Palace for a portrait to mark the Diamond Jubilee. It is from this room that the royal family steps onto the balcony for celebratory moments, including Trooping the Colour and royal wedding days – a task she carried out many times during her long life





Princess Elizabeth Alexandra Mary (top, and above left, in her mother's arms) was third in line to the throne when she was born on 21 April 1926 to the Duke and Duchess of York. At her Buckingham Palace christening the following month (above right) are (from left) 10 Lady Elphinstone (aunt and godmother); the Duke of Connaught (great-great-uncle and godfather); Queen Mary and King George V (paternal grandparents and godparents); the Duchess of York with baby Elizabeth, the Duke of York; the Countess and Earl of Strathmore (maternal grandparents; the Earl was also a godparent); Princess Mary, Viscountess Lascelles (aunt and godmother). A touching portrait (opposite) shows the Princess aged nine



A young Princess Elizabeth is shown from the chest up, holding a large, light pink flower. She has short, wavy brown hair and is wearing a white dress with a ruffled collar. The background is a soft, out-of-focus blue.

**The royal parents  
wanted Elizabeth  
to have as normal  
an upbringing  
as possible**

# A PRINCESS IS BORN

*The early years of little Lilibet – the happy  
baby who grew up to become Queen*








Pictured in 1930, the four-year-old Elizabeth plays with her parents the Duke and Duchess of York. Little Lilibet <sup>12</sup> was the very much longed-for first child of the Duke and Duchess (together, far right, with their royal toddler)





## Nobody could have foreseen that Princess Elizabeth would become our longest-reigning monarch

**W**hen she was born on 21 April 1926, in Bruton Street, London, nobody could have foreseen that the first child of the Duke and Duchess of York would become our longest-reigning monarch.

Christened Elizabeth Alexandra Mary on 29 May in the private chapel at Buckingham Palace, she took her first name from her mother and middle names from her grandmother and her great-grandmother, Queens Mary and Alexandra.

For the first ten years of her life Princess Elizabeth of York remained third in line to the throne, enjoying a carefree childhood that her royal parents endeavoured to keep as normal as possible.

The Princess spent her first year at White Lodge in Richmond Park. After that, she and her parents moved to a five-storey townhouse in London's Piccadilly, overlooking Green Park.

Charged with the earliest care of the little Princess was royal nanny Clara Knight, looking after the nine-month-old Elizabeth when her parents left to embark on a six-month tour of Australia and New Zealand.

A letter written by Clara at the time reassured the royal parents that their daughter was thriving.

"If Mummy looks into my wide ▶







14 A young Elizabeth and her sister Margaret, born in 1930, in front of an idealised Windsor Castle



**Her governess called her a jolly, intelligent, sensible little girl with a passion for horses and dogs**

open mouth with a little magnifying glass she will see my two teeth. Elizabeth is quite well and happy," she wrote in the charming note, dated 8 March 1927.

The young Princess grew up with a sense of duty, instilled early by her nanny, who ran everything to a strict schedule. Then, under the instruction of her grandmother Queen Mary, she was taught to wave and smile – and not fidget – in public.

#### HAPPY CHILDHOOD

Despite this, Elizabeth's father the Duke was determined not to replicate his own austere and unhappy childhood for his beloved daughters.

The Duchess had fond memories of her own childhood in Scotland and wanted Elizabeth and her sister Princess Margaret Rose, who was born there in 1930, to have as normal an upbringing as possible.

She and the Duke, who often referred to his family as "we four", played with their young daughters, read to them, bathed them and took them for walks in public parks. ▶

Elizabeth and Margaret (below) with royal governess Marion "Crawfie" Crawford, who came to be ostracised by the royal family after writing about her time working with them



Together on rocking-horseback in 1932; at their cottage in the grounds of Royal Lodge Windsor (inset left); and (below right) with their parents and the first of many dogs Elizabeth would own





**Elizabeth's father was determined not to replicate his unhappy childhood for his beloved daughters**



Margaret and Elizabeth with their mother and pets in the grounds of Royal Lodge in Windsor – the Duke and Duchess cherished family time





The family spent Christmas at Sandringham, Easter at Windsor and holidayed at the Balmoral Estate during the summer, where the Princesses learnt to stalk and shoot deer.

Weekends were spent at Royal Lodge in Windsor Great Park, where they loved to play in the garden with their many pets.

When Elizabeth was six years old, her parents took over Royal Lodge as their country home. In its grounds, Elizabeth and Margaret played in *Y Bwthyn Bach* (The Little House), a charming replica of a Welsh thatched cottage presented to Elizabeth by the people of Wales for her sixth birthday.

The Princesses were educated at home by their governess Marion Crawford – known as Crawfie – who described Elizabeth as a jolly, intelligent, sensible and tidy little girl with a passion for horses and dogs.

Elizabeth was a favourite of her grandfather George V, who nicknamed her Lilibet and would spend hours playing with her. It was he who introduced her to his passion for racing and, on her fourth birthday, presented her with her first pony. **H**

Elizabeth was a bridesmaid at her uncle the Duke of Kent's wedding in 1934 and she and her father look equally smart in their wedding outfits (right). Her royal Papa in uniform was a familiar sight for the young Princess (top, at her grandfather George V's silver jubilee celebrations)







# A DATE WITH DESTINY

*With her uncle's abdication, Princess Elizabeth's carefree childhood ended*



**T**he abdication of Edward VIII in 1936 changed the course of Princess Elizabeth's life forever. After her uncle gave up the throne for the love of US divorcée Wallis Simpson, Elizabeth's father became King and she the heiress presumptive – meaning the throne would one day be hers unless her parents had a son.

Princess Margaret asked her big sister: "Does that mean you will have to be the next Queen?"

"Yes, some day," answered Elizabeth. "Poor you," responded her bewildered younger sibling.

The Princesses were told by their beloved governess Crawfie that they would move out of their family home at 145 Piccadilly and into Buckingham Palace. When their father returned home for lunch that day, they curtsied to him for the first time.

While he had no desire to be King – and was secretly appalled his daughter would one day have to shoulder the burden of monarchy – for the sake of continuity and stability he kept to the coronation date that had been set for his brother: 12 May 1937.

Elizabeth's own handwritten account of this day, titled: *To Mummy and Papa in Memory of their Coronation – From Lilibet By Herself*, makes for fascinating reading.

"At 5 o'clock in the morning I was woken by the band of the Royal Marines striking up just outside my window... we crouched in the window looking on to a cold, misty morning. There were already people in the

stands. We went along to Mummy's bedroom and found her putting on her dress. Papa was dressed in a white shirt, breeches and stockings and over this he wore a crimson satin coat.

"Then a page came and said it was time to go down, so we kissed Mummy and wished her good luck."

Of the ceremony, Elizabeth wrote: "I thought it all very, very wonderful. The arches and beams at the top were covered with a sort of haze of wonder as Papa was crowned, at least I thought so."

The fidgety young Princess was seated beside her grandmother Queen Mary: "At the end the service got rather boring as it was all prayers," she wrote.

"Grannie and I were looking to see how many more pages to the end and we turned one more then I pointed to the bottom and it said 'Finis'. We smiled at each other and turned back to the service."

Afterwards – when the royal sisters had been rewarded with "some sandwiches, stuffed rolls, orangeade and lemonade" – there was what Elizabeth called the "long drive" back to the Palace to greet the assembled crowds.

"We went on to the Balcony where millions of people were waiting below. When we sat down to tea it was nearly six o'clock!

"When I got into bed my legs ached terribly. As my head touched the pillow I was asleep, and I did not wake up till nearly eight o'clock the next morning." **H**

Little Elizabeth of York adored her uncle Edward VIII (together, top left) and was as shocked as the rest of the nation when the King announced his abdication (below). His love for US divorcée Wallis Simpson (together left, at their wedding in June 1937) changed the monarchy and the young Princess's life for ever





**'The abbey was in a haze of wonder as Papa was crowned... I thought it was all very, very wonderful'**  
**Princess Elizabeth**



Coronation photos show Elizabeth with her sister Princess Margaret and their parents. She described her dress as: "White silk with old cream lace and little gold bows all the way down the middle." Devoted subjects could buy souvenirs of the event, including postcards (left)



# THE GOOD FIGHT

*As the nation faced its darkest hour, the King and his family stood shoulder to shoulder with their people*



*"We four" – Elizabeth joins her parents and sister Margaret visiting land girls working at Sandringham in 1943 and (above) at RAF Netheravon in May 1944. The King and Queen refused to send the children to safety abroad; instead they enlisted in the war effort and the family saw first hand the work taking place on the home front.*



**B**y the end of 1939, Britain was embroiled in the Second World War. With central London deemed too dangerous for the Princesses during the ferocious German bombing campaign of the Blitz, they spent much of their time at either Windsor Castle or Sandringham.

Any talk of evacuating the girls to Canada had been dismissed by their mother at the start of the war. "The children won't go without me," she said. "I won't leave without the King.

And the King will never leave." Elizabeth did her bit for the war effort, visiting the land girls – female farm workers drafted in while the men were away – on the family's Norfolk estate and joining her parents on visits to rally the troops.

She also made her first radio broadcast, on the BBC's *Children's Hour* in October 1940, in which she reassured youngsters who had been evacuated. "We know, every one of us, that in the end all will be well," she said.

Behind the scenes she was





*'The children won't go without me. I won't leave  
without the King. And the King will never leave'  
Queen Elizabeth*





**'We know, every one of us,  
that in the end all will be well'  
Princess Elizabeth**



Elizabeth with her family and Prime Minister Winston Churchill on the balcony of Buckingham Palace during VE Day celebrations. She and Margaret later joined the crowds on the streets of London



also preparing for her future role. Her father introduced her to affairs of state and a tutor schooled her in British constitutional history.

In 1945, Elizabeth convinced her Papa to allow her to join the Auxiliary Territorial Service – the women's army corps. In training to be a mechanic and driver, she was given a rare and precious chance to live and work outside a palace.

VE Day, on 8 May 1945, would become another much-cherished memory for the young officer. As Europe took to the streets to celebrate, Elizabeth, still in her uniform, rushed out to join the celebrations with her sister Princess

Margaret and a party of trusted royal household members.

Among them was the Princesses' cousin, Margaret Rhodes, who says of the adventure: "The King and Queen had the foresight to realise that by permitting [their daughters] to go out on the hoot they would remember it forever."

This was a last hurrah of sorts for Elizabeth. When the war ended so did her time mingling in the world of her subjects.

Elizabeth was leaving her childhood behind too; unbeknown to many, she had fallen in love and was soon to embark on a new era, during which she would establish her own little family. **H**

Eager to do her bit for the war effort, Elizabeth persuaded her father to allow her to join the Auxiliary Territorial Service, where she trained as a driver and mechanic (below). She soon reached the rank of honorary junior commander (left)





**When the war ended so did Elizabeth's time mingling in the world of her subjects**



The 19-year-old Princess in her ATS uniform. She was the first female member of the royal family to be a full-time active member of the armed forces. Among her duties was driving an ambulance



# A FINE ROMANCE

*The Princess found her Prince – and lived happily ever after*



The newly created Duke of Edinburgh and his bride Princess Elizabeth on the first day of their honeymoon in 1947 at Broadlands. The couple returned to the Mountbattens' Hampshire home and recreated the pose (right) in 2007 to mark their diamond wedding anniversary

**A**rm in arm and smiling into each other's eyes, the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh appeared as much in love in a photo taken in 2007 at Broadlands in Hampshire as they did on the first day of their honeymoon at the same stately country house 60 years earlier.

Enjoying 73 years of marriage until Prince Philip's death on 9 April 2021, the Queen could pride herself on knowing that the good impression made on her by the handsome young man at the Royal Naval College in Dartmouth in 1939 was spot on.

It was said to have been an instant attraction for the teen Princess Elizabeth when she spotted Prince Philip of Greece, 18, a distant cousin she had first met at a wedding five years earlier. "How good he is, Crawfie. Look how high he can jump," she said to her governess Marion Crawford as

Philip leapt over the tennis nets to impress Elizabeth and her sister.

"She was only 13 but she clocked Philip immediately and she never thought of anyone else," said Lady Pamela Hicks, a cousin to Prince Philip and one of Princess Elizabeth's bridesmaids eight years later.

The Second World War stood in the way of any ideas of romance, however. Philip saw active service with the Royal Navy while the Princesses were kept as far as possible out of harm's way.

But the cousins exchanged occasional letters and Elizabeth even kept a photo of Philip by her bed.

## VISIBLE CHEMISTRY

By 1943 a flutter of romance was detected between the two when Philip joined the family at Windsor for the festive season and its succession of soirées.

The King's private secretary, Tommy Lascelles, described how Philip and Elizabeth, dancing together on one occasion, "frisked and capered away till near lam".

The following year Queen Mary wrote in a letter to a friend that Elizabeth and Philip had "been in love for the past 18 months". She added: "But the King and Queen feel she is too young to be engaged yet. They want her to see more of the world... and to meet more men."

They may also not have considered the penniless and foreign-born Philip as the ideal match for their daughter and so a succession of aristocrats was invited to family gatherings.

But the Princess would not be swayed. "She never looked at anyone else," said Elizabeth's cousin Margaret Rhodes.

On his return from the war in the



**'She was only  
13 but she  
clocked Philip  
immediately and  
she never thought  
of anyone else'  
Lady Pamela Hicks**



Elizabeth and Philip (both circled, below) with the King, Queen and Princess Margaret at the Royal Naval College in 1939. Philip had been instructed to show the royal party around – and quickly made a strong impression on the 13-year-old future Queen







Princess Elizabeth, Prince Philip, Queen Elizabeth, George VI and Princess Margaret in the official portrait at Buckingham Palace in July 1947 to mark the news of the engagement (above). The press first suspected that the naval officer and the Princess were in love when the pair were photographed together at the wedding of Lady Patricia Mountbatten and Lord Brabourne a year earlier, at which Philip was an usher and Elizabeth a bridesmaid (below left). The couple were seen dancing together in public for the first time at a ball in Edinburgh in July 1947 (below right)





**'I have fallen in love,  
completely and unreservedly'  
Prince Philip**



The happy couple  
outside Buckingham  
Palace in July 1947 27  
following the official  
announcement of  
their engagement





The bride and groom pose in their finery for their wedding in November 1947. Their fairytale nuptials, though not extravagant by any means, provided a war-weary nation with, as Winston Churchill put it, "a flash of colour on the hard road we have to travel"



# Thousands had camped overnight to catch a glimpse of the bride in her fairytale Norman Hartnell gown

Far East, Philip began a two-year post as a training officer at a naval base at Corsham in Wiltshire. Elizabeth told a friend a few years later: "He spent six weeks at Balmoral. It was great luck his getting a shore job just then."

## A ROYAL ENGAGEMENT

It's thought that it was during this holiday in the Highlands in 1946 that Philip proposed to Elizabeth. She accepted immediately, without even consulting her parents.

However, an official announcement was not made for another year. The press, meanwhile, became aware of the romance later that year, at the wedding of Lady Patricia Mountbatten and Lord Brabourne at Romsey Abbey, when their cameras caught the couple gazing lovingly at each other.

The main stumbling block to a swift marriage was the King. According to his official biographer, Elizabeth's father "still found it difficult to believe that his daughter had fallen in love with the first young man she had ever met and perhaps he also dreaded losing her".

Elizabeth reluctantly agreed the official announcement should be postponed until the royal family had returned from a three-month tour of South Africa, a separation the King felt was a good test of the couple's commitment.

The official announcement was issued in ►



The young bride's Norman Hartnell gown was duchesse satin with embroidered lilies and orange blossom – which 29 the Princess had to buy using clothing ration coupons, as post-war austerity continued to bite





The couple at their rented home in Malta, the Villa Guardamangia (above), where they spent precious time together in the early days of the marriage from 1949 to 1951, when Philip was based there on naval duty. More than 60 years later (left, in Malta for 2015's Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting) they returned together to the Mediterranean island they held so dear

## 'Elizabeth's happiest time was when she was a sailor's wife in Malta'

*Margaret Rhodes*

July 1947 that the King had "gladly given his consent", although the Princess wrote the same year to author Betty Shew: "I don't think anybody thought much about 'consent' – it was inevitable."

### LOVE MATCH

Expressing his good fortune to his future mother-in-law, Philip wrote: "I am sure I do not deserve all the good things that have happened to me – to have been spared in the war and seen victory... to have fallen in love, completely and unreservedly."

On the morning of the couple's wedding day – 20 November 1947 – Philip was made Duke of Edinburgh, Earl of Merioneth and Baron Greenwich. The King had bestowed on him the title of His Royal Highness a day earlier.

Thousands had camped overnight

outside Westminster Abbey to catch a glimpse of the bride in her fairytale Norman Hartnell gown.

Inside, the groom was thoughtful as he made his vows. "Am I being very brave or very foolish?" he had pondered days before.

"Nothing was going to change for her," his cousin Lady Patricia recalled. "Everything was going to change for him."

After a wedding breakfast at Buckingham Palace, the newlyweds spent their honeymoon first at Broadlands, Earl Mountbatten's country retreat, then in snowbound seclusion at Birkhall on the Balmoral estate.

Again writing to Queen Elizabeth, Philip asked rhetorically: "Cherish Lilibet? I wonder if that word is enough to express what is in me."

As they started their own family – Prince Charles was born in 1948 and Princess Anne in 1950 – the couple enjoyed their most carefree days when Philip was appointed first lieutenant of the destroyer HMS Chequers in Malta in 1949. "[Elizabeth's] happiest time was as a sailor's wife in Malta," said Margaret Rhodes. "It was as nearly an ordinary a life as she got."

Elizabeth went to a hair salon for the first time, chatted over tea with the other officers' wives and spent precious time with her husband, exploring the island by boat, sunbathing and having picnics.

Malta always held a special place in the couple's hearts – they returned several times, most notably during their diamond wedding year in 2007 and again for one last, poignant visit in November 2015.





**Further joy followed  
the wedding, with the  
birth of Prince Charles  
and Princess Anne**



A dutiful daughter, a loving wife and now a devoted mother, Elizabeth 31 relished her time with her own little family (here, with Philip, Prince Charles and Princess Anne in 1950)



# DEATH OF A FATHER

*Elizabeth became Queen after her beloved Papa died in his sleep*



32 Elizabeth, aged three, is held by her father – then the Duke of York – in a 1929 portrait





Princess Elizabeth chats to her father in the gardens of Royal Lodge, Windsor, in 1946. In 1942, she joins him in his study at Royal Lodge (below left); ten years later the nation mourns the King's death (below)








A carefree Elizabeth with Philip at Sagana Lodge in Kenya (above). Just days later, after her father's death, the couple flew home, landing on 7 February 1952 at Heathrow, where they are met (below) by Prime Minister Winston Churchill, with Elizabeth dressed in black (right)







**'Elizabeth was only 25 and Prince Philip 30. They expected it to happen one day but not for about 20 years'**

**W**hen Elizabeth embarked on a tour of East Africa, Australia and New Zealand in 1952, little did she know that her life was about to change forever. She had departed a Princess and would return a Queen. For it was during this trip that her father died.

The Princess and Prince Philip were staying at the Treetops game lodge in Kenya on the night – 6 February 1952 – that George VI died peacefully in his sleep at Sandringham in Norfolk. He had been suffering from lung cancer for some time and four months earlier had undergone an operation to remove part of his lung.

Elizabeth was not told of his death until the next afternoon, by which time she had returned to a fishing lodge 20 miles away called Sagana, which had been given to her as a wedding present. It was there, beside a trout stream in the foothills of Mount Kenya, that her husband broke the sad news.

"She was only 25 and Prince Philip 30. They had two children [Charles, three, and Anne, not

yet two] and their private life had gone completely. They expected it to happen one day but not for about 20 years," recalled Lady Pamela Hicks, who was with the royal couple in Kenya at the time.

Now Queen and head of the Commonwealth, Elizabeth reacted with the sense of duty that would become the hallmark of her reign.

"Very composed, master of her fate," was how her then private secretary Martin Charteris described her. She discussed practicalities and wrote letters of apology for the cancellation of the rest of the tour and embarked on her homeward journey later that evening.

Clad in black, she descended the steps of her plane at Heathrow Airport, where she was met by her Prime Minister, Winston Churchill.

A life of duty had begun. And although there must have been tears in private, she met the sudden loss of her father with dignity and grace.

Over the coming years those two traits would stand her in fine stead. **H**

Elizabeth watches with her mother, Prince Philip and Princess Margaret as George VI's coffin is carried off the train at King's Cross on 11 February



# SUCH DEVOTED SISTERS

*United in fun and mischief in their youth, the pair never lost their close bond*



Princess Margaret and the Queen, in matching jackets, pose for an official photograph in a series to mark the Queen Mother's 80th birthday in 1980



Elizabeth and Margaret, followed by their mother Queen Elizabeth, on a tour of South Africa in 1947 (left). Not just sisters but the best of friends, the pair spent as much time with one another (above and below) as duty allowed

**D**azzling starlets of their day, Elizabeth and Margaret maintained a close sisterly bond throughout their lives despite one becoming Queen and the other her subject.

"They had a love, friendship and conspiracy that were impressive to behold," recalls family friend Reinaldo Herrera. "Princess Margaret had a telephone on her desk in Kensington Palace with a direct line to the Queen in Buckingham Palace on which the two would gossip... daily."

Their parents endeavoured to treat the girls equally in childhood but, once their father became King and Princess Elizabeth his heir apparent, life inevitably changed.

Nevertheless, the sisters remained inseparable during the war years when, evacuated to Windsor Castle, they put on pantomimes, proving themselves gifted actors and singers.

"Singing must have been a huge part of their lives," recalled Margaret's daughter Lady Sarah Chatto in a

documentary. "I remember hearing them singing together. It was very moving. It's very revealing how that closeness started and how young they were. That never got weaker as they got older. If anything, it just got stronger and stronger."

Their VE Day escapade illustrated their closeness but they faced a great challenge when Margaret fell in love with divorced Group Captain Peter Townsend, a relationship deemed impossible at that time for a Princess.

Margaret never lost her deep sense of loyalty to her sister, however. Nor did the Queen lose her protective attitude towards Margaret, especially when her marriage to Lord Snowdon ended in divorce in 1978, and during her bouts of ill health in later life.

It was a crushing blow for the Queen when she lost her sister in 2002. In a rare public expression of grief, she wiped away a tear at Margaret's funeral at St George's Chapel, Windsor, her other hand clutching the hand of her niece, Sarah. **H**





**'They had a love,  
friendship and  
conspiracy that  
were impressive  
to behold'**



Princess Elizabeth and Princess Margaret pose together in 1946. The following year Elizabeth 37 would marry Prince Philip, but the relationship between the sisters would remain as strong as ever



# CROWNING GLORY

*The nation rejoiced at the new Queen's  
spectacular and solemn coronation*





**'Never has there  
been such excitement.  
Never has a monarch  
received such  
adulation'**



Her Majesty sits for an official portrait on the occasion of her coronation in 1953 (left), and here, 60 years later, in celebration of her Diamond Jubilee, in the Throne Room at Buckingham Palace with the Imperial State Crown beside her





The Queen arrives at Westminster Abbey ahead of her coronation. Six embroiderers had spent 3,000 hours working on her dress, sewing in national and Commonwealth emblems, including the English Tudor rose, Scottish thistle and Canada's maple leaf





The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh are transported to the abbey in the Gold State Coach (above and right)

## The Queen took to wearing the St Edward's Crown at home to become accustomed to its 5lb weight

**T**he Queen's coronation on 2 June 1953 was one of the greatest events of the 20th century. More than 8,000 guests packed into Westminster Abbey to witness the crowning of the young Queen, while millions more thronged the route that took her and the Duke of Edinburgh to and from the abbey, or watched on the still novel phenomenon of TV.

Elizabeth had been proclaimed Queen and Head of the Commonwealth and Defender of the Faith on her father's death, but her coronation marked her formal acceptance of her role and enthronement as monarch.

### ALL IN THE PLANNING

The date of 2 June had been chosen because, statistically, it was the sunniest day of the year. Extra staircases, lighting, a telephone exchange and a stage were installed inside the abbey. Celebrated florist Constance Spry filled the space with ten acres of flowers, all timed to bloom on the day itself, and fashion designer Norman Hartnell created Elizabeth's dress.

To prepare for the big day the Queen attended rehearsals both at the abbey and in the ballroom at Buckingham Palace, with a sheet pinned to her back to replicate her robes.

She also took to wearing the St Edward's Crown at home to become accustomed to its 5lb weight. In a documentary ▶







The Queen enters the abbey (above). She later wore a simple white linen dress over her coronation gown in preparation for her anointing, with a golden supertunica added before the monarch is crowned (left) by the Archbishop of Canterbury the Most Rev. Geoffrey Fisher and (below) her husband leads other peers in paying homage and promising lifelong fealty





**The congregation called out:  
'God save the Queen!' three times**



The Queen sits in solemn  
dignity after being crowned.  
Outside the abbey a thunder  
of guns roared across 43  
London's Hyde Park,  
answered by a 21-gun salute  
from the Tower of London





Watching proceedings is four-year-old Prince Charles (above, between the Queen Mother and Princess Margaret). "My grandmother used to lean down and explain some of the things that were going on," said Charles in 2012. Now wearing the Imperial State Crown, the Queen exits the abbey (below and right)



marking the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012, the Prince of Wales recalled: "I remember my mama coming, you know, up, when we were being bathed as children, wearing the crown. It was quite funny – practising."

Although it rained on the morning of the coronation, this didn't stop an estimated three million well-wishers lining the streets. "Never has there been such excitement," wrote Prime Minister Winston Churchill's private secretary Jock Colville. "Never has a monarch received such adulation."

#### OUR NOBLE QUEEN

With Prince Philip at her side, the Queen travelled from Buckingham Palace to the abbey in the magnificent Gold State Coach.

She had agreed that the service be televised, believing it important that all her subjects had the chance to witness the event. Those lucky few with TV sets invited friends and neighbours to watch the BBC's broadcast. More than 20 million people worldwide watched the coverage, bearing witness as the Queen took the Coronation Oath, undertaking to rule according to law and to exercise justice with mercy.

She was anointed, blessed and consecrated by the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Rev. Dr Geoffrey Fisher. After presenting Her Majesty with the four symbols of authority – ►









With an escort of thousands of military personnel from around the Commonwealth, the Queen and Philip return (above) to Buckingham Palace, where photographer Cecil Beaton was waiting to take a series of official portraits. Still wearing the Imperial State Crown, she and members of her family later step out onto the palace balcony (below) to enjoy a thrilling flypast by the RAF



## After the Queen took her throne, Philip paid homage

the orb, the ring of sapphire and ruby and two sceptres – the Archbishop placed the St Edward's Crown on her head, as the congregation called out "God save the Queen!" three times.

After the Queen took her throne, bishops and peers, including her husband Philip, approached to pay homage. The ceremony concluded with the new sovereign leaving the abbey wearing the Imperial State Crown to take her seat in the Gold State Coach again. She returned to Buckingham Palace with an escort of thousands of military personnel from around the Commonwealth.

After official photos, the Queen, Philip, their children and their extended family stepped onto the balcony to wave to the crowds and witness a flypast by the RAF. **H**



**'I remember my mama coming  
up, when we were being bathed,  
wearing the crown' The Prince of Wales**



The Queen poses with Philip and their children Charles and Anne for photographer Cecil Beaton, who later said: "The Queen looked extremely minute under her robe and crown, her nose and hands chilled and eyes tired. 'Yes,' 47 she said in reply to my question. 'The crown does get rather heavy'"





# A FAMILY ALBUM

*From formal portraits to casual photographs, we share some magic moments captured on film of the Queen and her loved ones*



A very bonnie Prince Charles, aged six months, sits between his proud parents Princess Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh (above). Born at Buckingham Palace on 14 November 1948, he was the couple's much-adored first child. In little more than three years, Elizabeth would be Queen – and Charles first in line to the throne – but until that time they could adjust to being a family of three, away from the eyes of the world

Charles was not to be an only child for long. On 15 August 1950, at Clarence House in London, Princess Anne was born. Charles is clearly fascinated by his little sister, here examining her little fingers as they hold hands outside Clarence House in 1951 (left). Though Elizabeth and Philip would have two more children, Anne was their only daughter



**'She's my  
mother and  
the Queen'  
Princess Anne**



Elizabeth with a six-year-old Charles and four-year-old Anne. Now Queen, she was ruled by a sense of duty, though 49 behind closed doors, family came first. As the Princess Royal once said: "She's my mother and the Queen"





There would be a ten-year wait until the world could cheer the arrival of another baby in the British royal family. In February 1960, Prince Andrew was born at Buckingham Palace, followed four years later by Prince Edward, who was also delivered at the Palace. Here (above), the Queen smiles proudly as her two youngest sons gaze at the camera in a portrait taken by Cecil Beaton after Edward's christening in May 1964, two months after his birth

**There would be a ten-year wait until the world would cheer the arrival of another royal baby**



The Queen relaxes in Windsor Castle with Prince Edward (left), whose newly acquired toddling skills prove curious to a pet corgi. That blue-eyed baby grew up to become the Earl of Wessex and Her Majesty loved spending time in Windsor with his two children with wife Sophie, taking them riding in the royal park






The Queen holds Prince Edward while surrounded by her family in a photo taken on her 39th birthday. Something off-camera seems to have caught the attention of the group, with five-year-old Prince Andrew looking particularly unimpressed









**The Queen at her happiest – on  
a sunny day and surrounded by  
those she loves most at Balmoral**

It's smiles all round during a relaxed photoshoot at the Balmoral estate in 1972. Taken by the Queen's cousin Lord Lichfield during the family's annual summer holiday in Scotland, the image is one of a series of photos marking the Queen and Prince Philip's silver wedding. It was often said <sup>53</sup> that the monarch was at her happiest when at Balmoral, and in this image – on a sunny day and surrounded by the people she loved most – that certainly seems to be the case





# THROUGH THE YEARS

*How the Queen remained a constant as the decades changed*

▲ **A PRESIDENTIAL VISIT** The US President John F Kennedy and First Lady Jackie meet the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh at a dinner held in their honour at Buckingham Palace during a visit to London in June 1961

► **THEY THINK IT'S ALL OVER** A smiling Queen presents the Jules Rimet trophy to England football captain Bobby Moore after his team's dramatic 4-2 World Cup final win over West Germany at London's Wembley Stadium in July 1966

▼ **A VERY MODERN MARRIAGE** The Queen, the Duke of Edinburgh and Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother pose with Princess Margaret and photographer Antony Armstrong-Jones on the day of the couple's wedding on 6 May 1960



**T**he 1960s was the decade that gave the Queen her two youngest sons, Andrew and Edward, and that ended with her eldest, Charles, being invested as Prince of Wales.

Away from her family it was a time of change for the nation. In 1962 former US Secretary of State Dean Acheson said: "Great Britain has lost an empire and not yet found a role." It was about to find one – as the cultural heart of the

Swinging Sixties, taking the lead in music, fashion, film and TV. The Beatles took America by storm; Mary Quant, with her chic Vidal Sassoon haircut, became an icon of cool; while the cockney vowels of Michael Caine soon became as famous around the world as the Queen's English.

And England's football team ruled the world, seizing the World Cup in 1966 with their 4-2 extra-time victory over West Germany. ►



1960s

**COMING OF AGE** The Queen invests 20-year-old Prince Charles with the title of Prince of Wales at Caernarfon Castle on 1 July 1969. The Prince's formal response was: "I, Charles, Prince of Wales, do become your liege man of life and limb and of earthly worship; and faith and truth I will bear unto you to live and die against all manner of folks"





◀ **IN THE PINK** The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh, with Earl Mountbatten of Burma in the background, wave from the balcony of Buckingham Palace following a Silver Jubilee procession on 7 June 1977, which saw Her Majesty drive in the Gold State Coach to St Paul's Cathedral for a service of thanksgiving. The nation turned its back on 1970s austerity to celebrate the Queen's landmark with a day of street parties (top left) in June. In London alone 4,000 events were held

▶ **GAME, SET AND MATCH** Fittingly, Jubilee year saw a British champion at Wimbledon, Virginia Wade winning the ladies' singles (right, the Queen presenting her with her trophy). It would be another 33 years before Her Majesty would visit the championships again

▶ **FIRST LADIES** The Queen and Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, arguably the world's two most powerful women, attend the Commonwealth Heads of Government Conference in Zambia in August 1979 (far right)



1970s



**WEDDING BELLE** The Queen joins her daughter Princess Anne and Captain Mark Phillips on the balcony of Buckingham Palace following the couple's wedding at Westminster Abbey on 14 November 1973. Also waving to the well-wishers are (from left): Prince Edward, best man Captain Eric Grounds, bridesmaid Lady Sarah-Armstrong Jones, Prince Charles, Prince Andrew and the Duke of Edinburgh



**T**he 1970s were a time of gloom and glitter in the United Kingdom. Glam rock and disco ruled the airwaves but the optimism of the previous decade gave way to growing unease as steep oil price rises disrupted the world economy and Britain's goal of full employment seemed to recede, perhaps for ever.

Industrial action was widespread, with regular power cuts and the introduction of the three-day week to save energy. In Northern Ireland, the political situation continued to deteriorate,

with 1972's Bloody Sunday and IRA bombs exploding in England.

Against this backdrop of political and economic unrest, the 25th anniversary of the Queen's accession lifted the nation's spirits and gave Britons a chance to join together in a celebration of country and community.

The 1977 Silver Jubilee was the peak of a hectic decade for the Queen, who undertook 14 overseas tours and more than 60 Commonwealth visits, on top of a domestic schedule that took her to every corner of Britain to celebrate with her people. ►







▲ **ENTER THE YORKS** The Queen celebrates the nuptials of Prince Andrew and Sarah Ferguson – the Duke and Duchess of York – on 23 July 1986. Joining them on the Buckingham Palace balcony are the Queen Mother, Prince Edward and a four-year-old Prince William, with his flowergirl cousins Zara Phillips and Laura Fellowes

◀ **COURAGEOUS RECOVERY** The Queen brings her horse Burma back under control after a 17-year-old former air cadet fires six blank cartridges at her during 1981's Trooping the Colour. Though shaken, she quickly regained her composure

▼ **REINING VICTORIOUS** Enjoying a horse ride with US President Ronald Reagan in Windsor Great Park in June 1982. During her life she met 13 of the 14 US Presidents who held office during her reign – Lyndon B Johnson was the sole exception



**T**his was the decade the “yuppie” was unleashed on the world. These Young Urban Professionals were a product of the Big Bang deregulation of financial markets, which saw the economy transformed. Brick-sized mobile phones, expensive cars and a “greed is good” mentality ushered in a new era of conspicuous consumption.

It was also the decade of the Falklands War, when the Queen joined so many others in praying for the safety of their sons, as naval helicopter pilot Prince Andrew joined the British Task Force in the South Atlantic.

Her Majesty quietly carried on with her responsibilities, yielding much of the limelight to her mother and the younger royals. In the course of the period her elder sons married commoners, as their grandfather had in wedding Lady Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon. ▶





▲THE NATION CELEBRATES The Queen accompanies her new daughter-in-law the Princess of Wales and her bridesmaids along the Picture Gallery at Buckingham Palace following the wedding of Prince Charles and Lady Diana Spencer at St Paul's Cathedral on 29 July 1981. The little wedding party was heading to the Palace balcony, to be joined (right) by the groom. Charles, who was 32 at the time, and Diana, 20, later delighted the waiting crowds by sharing a kiss. TV coverage was broadcast in 74 countries and watched by an estimated 750 million people.







▲ **EDWARD WEDS** The Queen's youngest child marries Sophie Rhys-Jones in St George's Chapel, Windsor, on 19 June 1999 in a service attended by 560 guests. Standing behind the newlyweds – granted the titles Earl and Countess of Wessex – on the chapel's steps following the ceremony are Her Majesty and Sophie's father Christopher

◀ **ANNE MARRIES AGAIN** The Queen attends the wedding of the Princess Royal and Commander Timothy Laurence at a private ceremony at Crathie Church, near Balmoral, on 12 December 1992. It was Anne's second marriage. Just three days earlier it had been announced that the Prince and Princess of Wales had separated; in March that year Buckingham Palace had announced the separation of the Duke and Duchess of York

**A**fter 40 years of loyal and devoted service – and at an age when most women would long since have retired – the Queen might have hoped her life had reached a time of stability.

Instead, the 1990s contained many of the most challenging – and distressing – circumstances the royal family had encountered.

Speaking at London's Guildhall while marking 40 years as Queen, she said that 1992 had been her "*annus horribilis*".

All too symbolic was a devastating fire at Windsor Castle. However, most pain came from family crises. Marital breakdowns for three of her children were surely hard enough, but the shocking death of Diana, Princess of Wales and her subjects' reaction to it were to prove the greatest test of her strength as mother and monarch. ►



1990s



**DEATH OF A PRINCESS**  
Following an unprecedented outpouring of emotion from the British public in response to the death in August 1997 of Diana, Princess of Wales, the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh respond by surveying the sea of floral tributes laid outside Buckingham Palace







▲ **ANNUS HORRIBILIS** A fire tears through Windsor Castle in November 1992, causing £37m-worth of damage. Following widespread public opposition to the use of taxpayers' money to fund the restoration, it was decided to open Buckingham Palace to the paying public for a limited period. It was hoped that the profits would pay for 70% of the repair work at the castle. The Queen also agreed to pay income tax and capital gains tax and absorb a larger share of the cost of the royal family's expenses. Four days after the fire she gives a speech (inset above) at London's Guildhall to mark the 40th anniversary of her accession. During her address she famously referred to the events of that year as part of an "*annus horribilis*" for her and the family. In addition to the fire she was thinking of the marriage breakdowns that year of her sons Charles and Andrew and her daughter Anne's divorce

◀ **FAREWELL TO BRITANNIA** A rare public tear from the Queen as she and the Duke of Edinburgh bid farewell to Royal Yacht Britannia, which had served their family for 44 years. The vessel was decommissioned on 11 December 1997 at Portsmouth Naval Base and all the clocks on board were stopped at 15.01, the time the Queen was piped ashore for the last time



1990s



**VICTORY MEMORIES** Poppies are released from a Lancaster bomber over The Mall in May 1995 to mark the 50th anniversary of VE Day. Watching from the balcony of Buckingham Palace are (top) the Queen, Queen Mother and Princess Margaret. Fifty years earlier the trio had appeared on the balcony with George VI (above) to celebrate Victory in Europe Day









2000s

**After the traumatic events of the 1990s, the Queen was delighted to see in the 21st century**

**GOLDEN MOMENTS** On 4 June 2002, the Queen and Prince Philip – surrounded by thousands of well-wishers and a sea of Union flags – make their way from Buckingham Palace to St Paul's Cathedral for a service to mark her 50-year reign and (inset right) the Queen smiles outside the cathedral





**FAMILY HEARTBREAK** The decade saw a double loss for the Queen: on 9 February 2002, her sister Princess Margaret died, aged 71. Less than two months later – on 30 March – her beloved mother died, at the grand old age of 101 (here, the three together on the balcony of Buckingham Palace to mark the Queen Mother's 100th birthday in 2000)



**T**he new millennium began with the Queen at the heart of national celebrations, receiving a kiss from Prince Philip at the Millennium Dome.

The decade was to feature many highs and lows as she suffered the loss of her sister Princess Margaret and the Queen Mother within just two months of each other in 2002.

But there was joy as she marked her Golden Jubilee in spectacular style, with thousands of people lining the streets to acknowledge her half-a-century reign.

Meanwhile, the UK was involved in conflict in Iraq and Afghanistan following the 11 September 2001 terror attacks on the US, while bombings in 2005 brought terrorism to the streets of London.

The Prince of Wales married Camilla Parker Bowles in a civil ceremony at Windsor in 2005, with the monarch attending the church blessing and reception.

The Queen underwent successful surgery on both knees during 2003 and continued to travel abroad during the decade, despite turning 80 in 2006. ▶

#### ◀ HOSPITAL VISIT

After jarring her right knee while walking at Newmarket, the Queen had an operation to remove a torn cartilage. She was soon up on her feet – blessed with good health, she missed very few public engagements over her long reign

#### ▶ NEW YEAR'S KISS

There couldn't have been a better moment than midnight chiming in the new millennium for the Queen and Prince Philip to give each other a rare public kiss. Traditionally, the couple spent Christmas and New Year at Sandringham but were happy to ring in the year 2000 in public instead





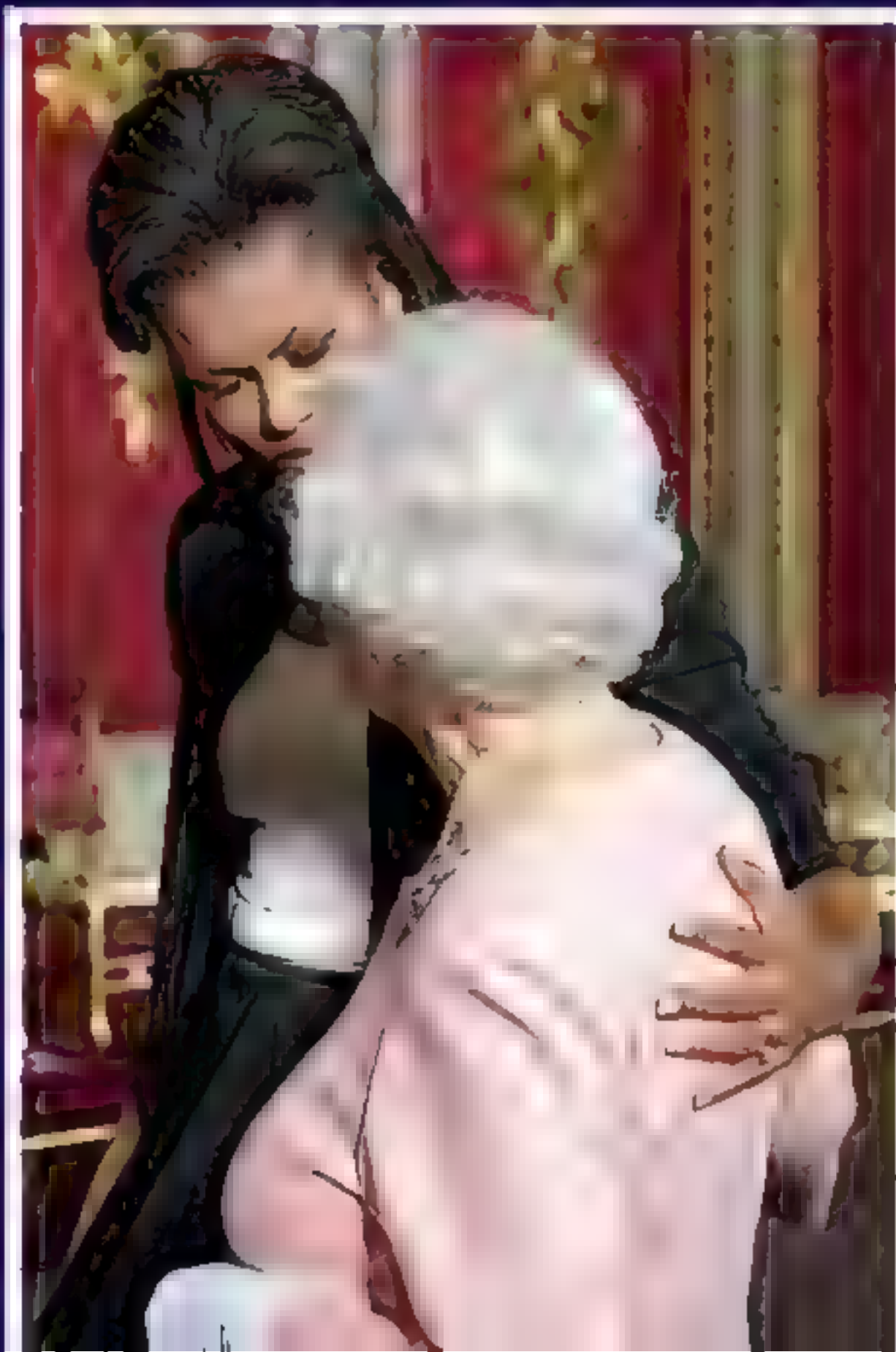


▲ **GOLDEN YEAR** After the turbulent 1990s, some thought Britain had lost faith in its monarchy. But in June 2002, the nation took to the streets again in celebration of the Queen's Golden Jubilee. The sovereign's vigorous touring schedule to mark the occasion belied her 76 years

◀ **HONOURS LIST** Footballer David Beckham was invested with his OBE by Her Majesty at Buckingham Palace in November 2003. "This is just an amazing day," he said. "It's definitely on a par with my football medals – if not better." His pop star wife Victoria and his grandparents attended

► **CHARLES AND CAMILLA MARRY** The Prince of Wales's second wedding, in April 2005, was a much smaller affair than his first: a civil ceremony in Windsor Guildhall in the presence of the couple's respective children and other close family members. Later, the Queen and Prince Philip attended a blessing led by the Archbishop of Canterbury at St George's Chapel. Though the Queen regretted the failure of her son's first marriage, she was happy to see him content in his second

◀ **TOUCHING GREETING** First Lady Michelle Obama broke royal protocol with a brief hug for the Queen when she and President Obama visited London in May 2009. It was, said a Palace spokesperson: "A mutual and spontaneous display of affection and appreciation." The visit came ahead of the G20 summit of leaders of the world's 20 top economies







**T**he 2010s were a golden era for the royal family, as the UK played host to London 2012, the Diamond Jubilee celebrations and five royal weddings.

In 2010 the Queen welcomed Pope Benedict XVI and addressed the UN General Assembly. A year later she was the first UK monarch to visit the Republic of Ireland.

Prince William married Kate Middleton in 2011 – their son Prince George, the Queen's next

heir, was born in 2013 – and Zara Philips wed Mike Tindall. More celebrations saw the weddings of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle, Princess Eugenie and Jack Brooksbank and Lady Gabriella Windsor and Thomas Kingston.

The Queen turned 90, the Duke of Edinburgh retired and the couple made final trips abroad, including a historic first visit to a concentration camp at Bergen-Belsen in Germany, and a

▲ **UNITED FRONT** As Queen of 16 member nations and head of the Commonwealth, Her Majesty addresses the UN General Assembly in New York on 7 July 2010. She talked of the progress made since her first visit to UN headquarters, in 1957, and of her hope that the body's "determination to do the right thing" in the face of future challenges would stand the test of time

▼ **HOLY VISIT** Pope Benedict XVI makes a state visit to the UK in September 2010, spending time with the Queen in Edinburgh





2010s



sentimental return to their beloved Malta in 2015.

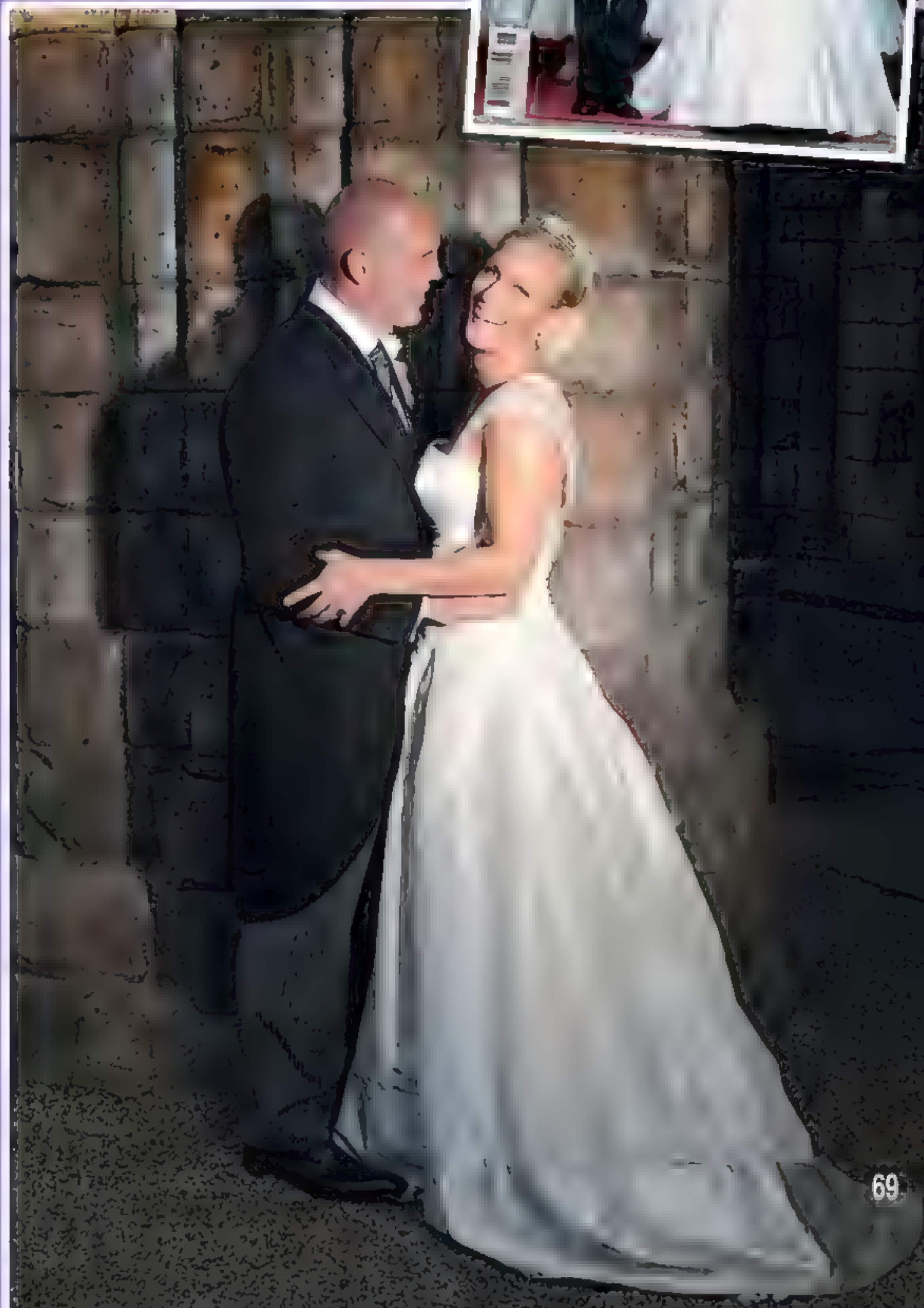
That year Her Majesty became the nation's longest-serving monarch and went on to mark her Sapphire Jubilee in 2017.

There was controversy as Prince Andrew stepped back from royal duties, but the Queen was a source of strength to the nation, with poignant visits to survivors of the Grenfell Tower fire and Manchester Arena bombing. ►

▲ FAIRYTALE The 29 April 2011 wedding of Prince William and Catherine Middleton (inset right, a very special cover for HELLO!) was a highlight for the royal family and the nation. Guiding the pair (above on the palace balcony after the ceremony) through the preparations was William's proud grandmother, always ready to offer advice – as she did with the guest list. "Start with your friends first and then go from there," she told a worried groom-to-be

◀ PRIME TIME Walking down the staircase in 10 Downing Street with Prime Minister David Cameron and his wife Samantha, after a lunch to mark the Duke of Edinburgh's 90th birthday. In the background are photographs of some of the previous 11 Prime Ministers to have served during her reign. Paying tribute at the Diamond Jubilee, the PM said: "My weekly hour with the Queen is vital because I get to draw on all those qualities: her knowledge; her commitment; her time-tested wisdom"

► 30 JULY 2011 The Queen's granddaughter Zara Phillips and England rugby union star Mike Tindall wed in an intimate ceremony in Edinburgh







▲ **SHIPSHAPE** The Queen with (from left) the Prince of Wales, the Duke of Edinburgh, the Duchess of Cornwall, the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge and Prince Harry aboard the Spirit of Chartwell in 2012 for the Thames Diamond Jubilee Pageant

◀ **RULING THE WAVES** Beneath the gaze of Big Ben's tower, the royal barge passes under Westminster Bridge in London, packed with cheering revellers and well-wishers. Thousands lined the banks of the river, despite the wet weather

► **SAIL OF THE CENTURY** Prince William points out some of the action along the way to Her Majesty as Kate and Harry look on

▼ **DIAMOND STARS** Celebrities including Rob Brydon, Jools Holland, Will.i.am and Cheryl watch the Queen light a beacon at the end of the Buckingham Palace Diamond Jubilee Concert





2010s





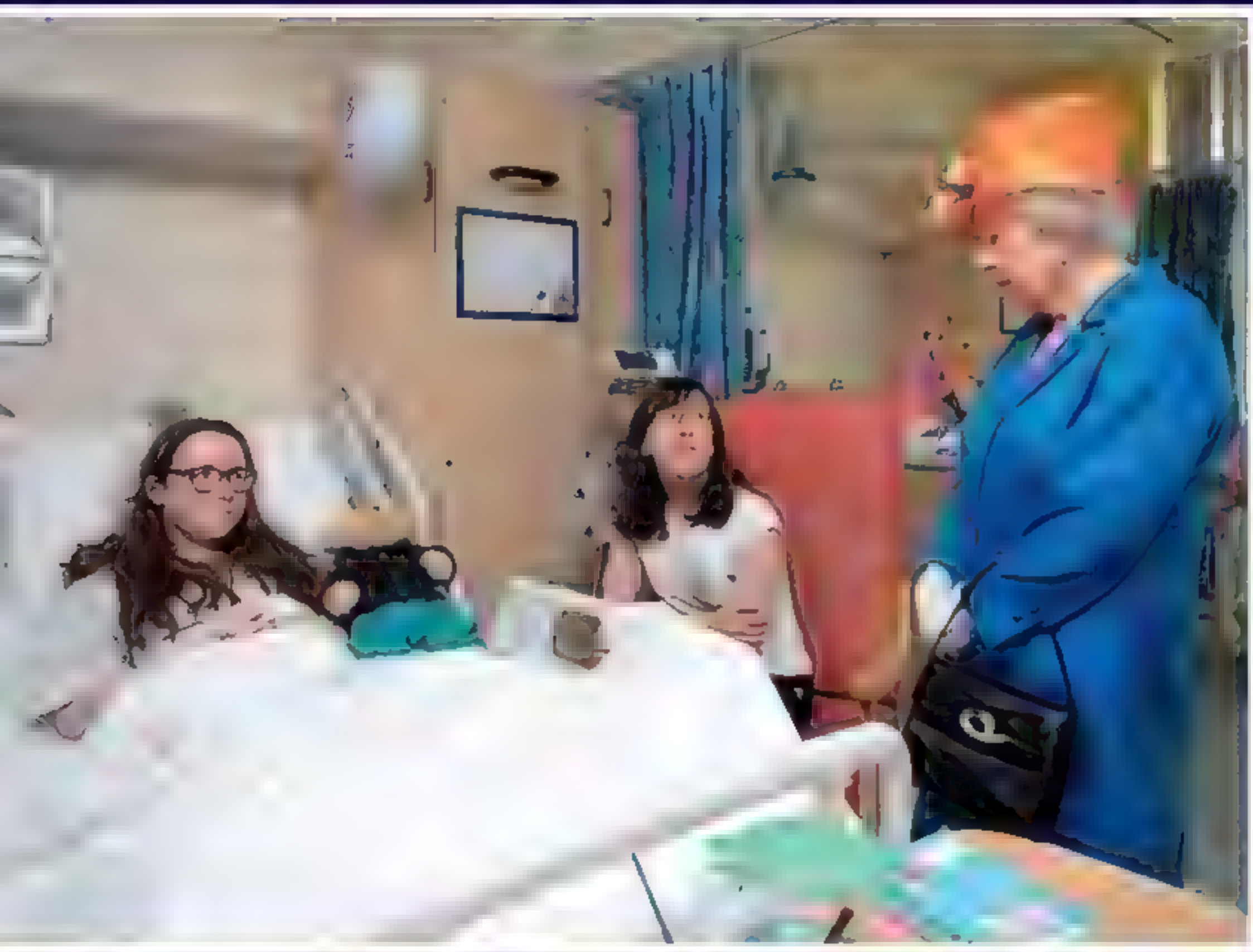


▲ **GAME FOR A LAUGH** The Queen makes her opening address at the London 2012 Olympic Games – having shown her lighter side by appearing to have just parachuted into the stadium alongside *James Bond* star Daniel Craig. Among those VIPs watching are the Duke of Edinburgh and International Olympic Committee president Jacques Rogge, the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge and Prince Harry, David and Samantha Cameron and the Princess Royal

▼ **SOURCE OF STRENGTH** The Queen comforts people affected

by the Manchester Arena bombing (below left) and the Grenfell Tower blaze in London (bottom left). In her Christmas message that year she said it was a “privilege” to meet survivors and praised both cities’ “powerful identities”

▼ **PRINCESS EUGENIE WEDS JACK BROOKSBANK** 12 OCTOBER 2018 The newlyweds emerge from St George’s Chapel in Windsor followed by their parents, plus the bride’s sister Princess Beatrice, and their attendants. “THE greatest day of my life,” Eugenie later said





2010s



▲ **PRINCE HARRY WEDS MEGHAN MARKLE**  
 19 MAY 2018 The nation rejoiced as Harry and Meghan tied the knot. The starry ceremony at St George's Chapel in Windsor Castle was attended by celebrities including Oprah Winfrey and the Beckhams, and had officiants including Chicago-born Episcopal Bishop Michael Curry

► **LADY GABRIELLA WEDS THOMAS KINGSTON**  
 18 MAY 2019 The sun again shone on St George's Chapel for the glamorous occasion of the wedding of the daughter of Prince and Princess Michael of Kent, once again attended by the Queen – who was a distinguished guest at almost every royal wedding during her reign







▲ **GREEN SHOOTS** The Queen and Prince of Wales plant an oak tree at Balmoral Castle in March 2021 for the Queen's Green Canopy scheme, honouring Her Majesty's 70 years' service. After the Duke of Edinburgh died, she was presented with a new rose named in his honour, to mark what would have been his 100th birthday (above right). She called it a "very kind" tribute to her late husband  
▼ **GROWING IN UNITY** The Queen poses for a group portrait with Prime Minister Boris Johnson, US President Joe Biden and other visiting world leaders at the G7 summit in Cornwall in June 2021

**T**he early 2020s, although heralding Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee, were among the most challenging for her.

The Duke and Duchess of Sussex stepped back from royal life and moved to California, giving an explosive interview to Oprah Winfrey.

As the Covid-19 pandemic spread across the globe the monarch and her husband were protected at Windsor Castle by a core staff dubbed HMS Bubble, even celebrating their milestone 70th wedding anniversary in isolation. The Queen adapted to

working online and her messages to the nation were a source of comfort.

The death of the Duke, aged 99, in April 2021, was momentous for Her Majesty who, following guidelines at the time, sat alone at his funeral.

But later that year she welcomed world leaders to the G7 and Global Investment Summits and launched the Queen's Commonwealth Baton relay, remaining active and engaged until ill health compelled her to undertake lighter duties toward **H** the end of her historic reign.







▲ **BACK TO BUSINESS** Welcoming US special Presidential envoy for climate John Kerry and other international business leaders at a Global Investment Summit reception at Windsor Castle in October 2021  
 ◀ **PASSING THE BATON** Later that month, launching the Commonwealth Baton Relay with Paralympian Kadeena Cox at Buckingham Palace  
 ▶ **ROYAL BLUE** Also in October 2021 Her Majesty looks on winning form at Champions Day at Ascot – enjoying herself immensely (inset above) at one of her favourite events





# HAPPY WIFE

*They were lifelong sweethearts and the historic seven-decade marriage of the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh was a royal romance for the ages*



**T**hroughout their long and happy 73-year marriage, the Queen credited her husband with its success. She summed it up best on their golden wedding anniversary in 1997, when she said: "He has, quite simply, been my strength and stay all these years."

Her Majesty understood early on the sacrifices her husband would have to make to fulfil this vital role. As well as relinquishing his naval career, Philip gave up any idea of his four children bearing his surname, Mountbatten.

But she was ever keen to make it up to him. In 1960 it was decided their children should take the surname Mountbatten-Windsor. Then in 2011, the monarch gave up her title Lord High Admiral, bestowing it on him as a 90th birthday surprise.

In all but state decisions the Queen deferred to Philip as head of the family. As his cousin Lady Pamela Hicks once said: "He was most definitely... the boss of their private life."

They were lifelong sweethearts. One close family friend summed it up perfectly: "They're just a real love story." ▶





**'Philip has, quite  
simply, been my  
strength and stay  
all these years'  
The Queen**



The Queen and Duke of Edinburgh  
in 2010; and (right) in 1982. The  
couple remained inseparable  
throughout their 73-year marriage



# MOTHER LOVE

*Breaking boundaries as both a monarch and a modern mum*



The Queen and Prince Philip are joined for a dinner to celebrate their diamond wedding anniversary in 2007 by their children the 78 Prince of Wales, the Duke of York, the Princess Royal and Earl of Wessex





Baby Prince Edward is surrounded by his siblings (above, from left, Princess Anne, Prince Charles and Prince Andrew) in this 1965 family snap with his parents

**'I hope I can bring up my children in the happy atmosphere which Margaret and I have grown up in'**  
**The Queen**

**W**hen Prince Charles was born in 1948, Princess Elizabeth said of her firstborn: "He's quite adorable. I still can't believe he is really mine."

Two years later her daughter Princess Anne was born and, at 24, Princess Elizabeth had two children under two. She loved being a mother, but there was little time to relax into the role as, just 18 months later, Elizabeth became Queen.

It wasn't until 1960 that her third child, Prince Andrew, was born and another four years before he was joined by Prince Edward.

By the time her "second family" arrived she was able to enjoy motherhood more.

Combining her maternal role with the strictures of monarchy wasn't easy. Of course, she had strong role models in her own parents.

"I only hope that I can bring up my children in the happy atmosphere of love and fairness which Margaret and I have grown up in," she wrote to her parents while on honeymoon.

The Queen was adored by her children. The Princess Royal called her "a marvellous mother". And at the Diamond Jubilee concert in 2012 the Prince of Wales said a heartfelt: "Thank you and my father for always being there for us; for inspiring us with your selfless duty and service."

Later that year, when Kate Winslet was invested with her CBE, she told the Queen she loved being a mum even more than being an actress. "Yes," the Queen replied. "That's the only job which matters."





# A MUCH-LOVED 'GRANNY'

*As her children had families of their own,  
the Queen revelled in her new role*







The Queen inspects officers, including a smiling Prince William (left), at the passing-out parade at Sandhurst Royal Military Academy in December 2006. Eight months earlier she had been greeted with a similar response from Prince Harry at his passing-out parade (above). It was not the first time the Princes gave their Granny a cheeky grin, though – such as (below) during an appearance on the Buckingham Palace balcony in 1989

## 'I view her as my boss, but also as a grandmother' Harry

**I**f the Queen missed out on precious moments as a mother because of her role as monarch, she more than made up for it with her eight beloved grandchildren.

With them she was more easily able to balance her dual roles – as Prince Harry touched on in the 2016 documentary *Elizabeth at 90 – A Family Tribute*.

"You have this huge amount of respect for your boss and I always view her as my boss, but also as a grandmother," he said.

The Duke of Cambridge also spoke of his respect: "Growing up, having this figurehead, having this stability above me has been incredible," he said. ►





**The Queen was devoted to all her grandchildren, but she had a special affection for her first, Peter Phillips**



The Queen chats with her eldest grandchild Peter Phillips and his sister Zara on the royal balcony during Ladies Day at Royal Ascot in 2007



One for the album: The Queen and Prince Philip pose with their grandchildren (left, from left) Prince Harry, Princess Eugenie, Prince William, Princess Beatrice and Zara Phillips while at Balmoral in 1999. Fourteen years later, in 2013, the couple are joined by Beatrice and Eugenie at the Epsom Derby (right)

The Queen's grandchildren all called her by the same pet name – as demonstrated when William and Harry shouted: "Go Granny!" when she delighted them and the rest of the nation by appearing to parachute out of a helicopter, during a cameo alongside Daniel Craig's James Bond at the 2012 Olympics opening ceremony.

Years earlier a young Prince William had confused a guest at Buckingham Palace when he fell over, crying: "Gary! Gary!"

The guest asked "Who's Gary?" to which the Queen, rushing to pick up her grandson, replied: "Oh, I'm Gary. He hasn't learnt to say 'Granny' yet."

As monarch, she went out of

her way to help Prince William to shoulder the burden awaiting him as future King.

"I have been able to explore, understand, slightly carve my own path," he revealed in the 2016 documentary. "I greatly appreciate and value that protection."

#### **SPECIAL AFFECTION**

The Queen was devoted to all her grandchildren, but she naturally had a special affection for her first grandchild, the Princess Royal's son Peter Phillips.

She turned up late to an investiture on the morning of his birth in 1977 – her Silver Jubilee year – beaming: "My daughter has just had a son" ▶









and I am now a grandmother."

Over the years the Queen encouraged this new generation of royals to share her passions, including her love of horses.

She revelled in Olympic silver medallist Zara Tindall's equestrian successes – when asked once if she was ever on the receiving end of one of the Queen's "stern" looks, Zara said: "I always get the good look. I think we're all right" – and gave riding lessons to others.

#### A GIFT FOR GIVING

Such gracious touches meant so much. For Princess Beatrice's scaled-down July 2020 nuptials the Queen gave a much-loved vintage Norman Hartnell gown to be used as the wedding dress.

And one insider revealed of the family's annual break at Balmoral: "The monarch has been known to leave small, personally chosen gifts on her grandchildren's beds."

It was here she was most relaxed. "It's a lovely base for Granny and Grandpa to be – for us to come and see them up there," said Princess Eugenie, whose closeness to the monarch was shown when the Queen was one of the first people she told of her 2018 engagement. "Granny actually knew right at the beginning; she was one of the very few people," Eugenie said.

In the last years of the Queen's long life, seeing her grandchildren, and later her great-grandchildren, was an immense joy. As Princess Eugenie summed up: "She just loves having us around." ▶





**Over the years the Queen  
encouraged her grandchildren  
to share her passions,  
including her love of horses**



Her Majesty takes her granddaughter Lady Louise Windsor (inset above left, becoming acquainted after Louise's birth in January 2004) and her younger brother Viscount Severn – the children of the Earl and Countess of Wessex – for a pony ride in Windsor Great Park





# AS A GREAT-GRANDMOTHER

*The Queen valued family and nothing gave her more joy in her latter years than her 12 great-grandchildren. Here, HELLO! looks back at the special bond she shared with the youngest generation of royals...*



**'The arrival  
of a baby...  
gives renewed  
happiness  
and hope'  
The Queen**



Happy times as the Queen cuddles Prince Louis while posing for a family photograph at Balmoral in 2018 with the Duke of Edinburgh and (from left) Prince George, Princess Charlotte, Savannah Phillips, 87 Savannah's sister Isla, and Lena – then the youngest of the great-grandchildren – and Mia Tindall





**PRINCE GEORGE**

The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge share their firstborn baby joy outside St Mary's Hospital in 2013 (left). Two years later, we glimpse a sweet bond between Prince George and the Queen at the christening of his sister Princess Charlotte at Sandringham (above), and by his eighth birthday in 2021 (right) it is clear our future King has a dazzling smile





To the young prince Her Majesty was the ultimate role model... but most of all she was simply his beloved Gan-Gan

**H**e was born to be King and, as such, Prince George shared a special bond with his great-grandmother. To the young Prince, Her Majesty was the ultimate role model who provided a gentle guiding hand when needed but, most of all, she was his beloved "Gan-Gan".

The Queen doted on young George, as was evident on occasions such as the christening of his younger sister Princess Charlotte in 2015, when Her Majesty was seen bending down to speak to the toddler Prince.

The Duchess of Cambridge once said of the Queen: "She always leaves a little gift or something in their room when we go and stay, and that just shows her love for the family."

The Cambridge children's closeness to their great-grandmother was thought to be one of the main reasons for the family's move to Berkshire – and the youngsters' start at Lambrook School – in summer 2022.

George is now second in line to the throne behind his father the Prince of Wales. In a historic appearance on the Buckingham Palace balcony at the conclusion of the Platinum Jubilee celebrations, the young Prince took centre stage alongside his great-grandmother, grandfather and father to spotlight the core members of the royal family shaping the future of the monarchy.

#### HAPPY CHILDHOOD

While George has met presidents and prime ministers and been overseas on royal tours, the football-mad youngster has also been encouraged by his parents to have as normal a childhood as possible.

George, whom his father has described as "a bit of a rascal", is said to be "helicopter crazy", enjoys playing tennis and, like his great-grandmother, who owned many corgis, he adores dogs. Just as the Queen did, he also cares about the planet and is a "massive fan" of Sir David Attenborough.

Following his birth on 22 July 2013, the Queen said in her Christmas speech: "Here at home my own family is a little larger this Christmas. As so many of you will know, the arrival of a baby gives everyone the chance to contemplate the future with renewed happiness and hope." ▶

George and his siblings Louis and Charlotte arrive with their parents for their first day at Lambrook School in Berkshire in September 2022 (left)





## PRINCESS CHARLOTTE

**'The Queen was thrilled that it was a little girl'  
The Duchess of Cambridge**

**A**s the middle child between two brothers, Princess Charlotte "rules the roost", according to her parents – something that didn't go unnoticed by the Queen.

"It's like that with Charlotte and George," Her Majesty once remarked as she chatted to a mother about how her younger child looked after the older one.

The youngster has proved to be a natural when it comes to royal duties – accepting posies graciously and even learning how to perfect her great-grandmother's royal wave. At the Platinum Jubilee celebrations the seven-year-old showed the boys who's boss, brandishing her fist at rowdy Louis, four, and telling big brother George, then eight, how to stand during the national anthem.

### KEEPING THE QUEEN AMUSED

Charlotte's confidence and cheeky sense of humour no doubt also amused Her Majesty, who was delighted when Prince William and Kate's daughter Charlotte Elizabeth Diana – who is sporty like her grandmother Diana – was born on 2 May 2015.

"The Queen was really thrilled that it was a little girl, and I think as soon as we came back here to Kensington she was one of our first visitors," Kate later said.





## Fourth in line, Louis is the first British Prince to be ranked behind an elder sister

PRINCE LOUIS



Seven-month-old Louis is embraced by his beaming grandfather the Prince of Wales (above) during a photoshoot to mark Charles's 70th birthday at Clarence House; and (right) the four-year-old royal has blossomed into a cheeky and confident youngster

**T**he four-day Platinum Jubilee weekend honoured the Queen's unprecedented 70 years on the throne, but it was four-year-old Louis Arthur Charles Cambridge who charmingly stole the show with his cheeky antics.

"What a fantastic weekend of celebrations," his bemused parents tweeted afterwards. "We all had an incredible time, especially Louis..."

Not that the guest of honour minded. The youngest of the Cambridge children seems to have had a special place in the monarch's heart. On holiday at Balmoral when just a few months old, Prince Louis sat on the Queen's lap as she and Prince Philip posed, along with seven of their great-grandchildren, for his first official portrait.

As a baby, Louis showed little sign of his later cheekiness – he was described as "very relaxed and peaceful" by his mother, who added: "I hope he stays like this."

Now fourth in line to the throne, Louis – whose name is a touching tribute to both his father William and grandfather the Prince of Wales, who both have Louis as a middle name – is the first British Prince to rank below an elder sister, following the 2011 Perth Agreement, which ruled to end historic discrimination against women.

Born on 23 April 2018, Louis spent his first months between Kensington Palace and Anmer Hall in Norfolk as his parents increased their public duties in support of the Queen, following the Duke of Edinburgh's retirement.

That Christmas, the Queen spoke of her growing role as a grandmother as she delivered her speech to the nation. "It's been a busy year for my family, with two weddings and two babies, and another child expected soon," she said. "It helps to keep a grandmother well occupied." ►

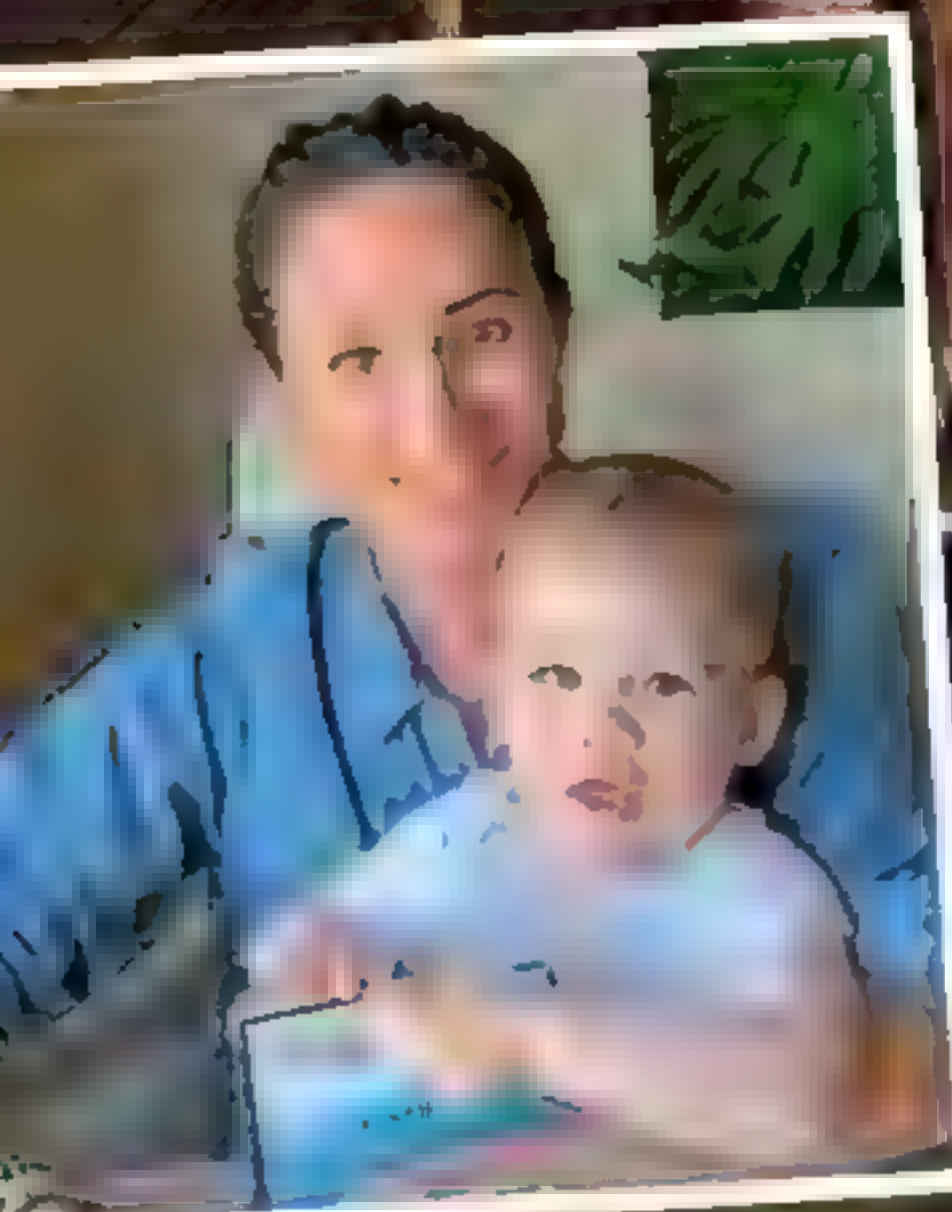




# ARCHIE MOUNTBATTEN-WINDSOR



Archie's July 2019 Windsor christening day (above) with his parents the Duke and Duchess of Sussex and (from left) the then Duchess of Cornwall; grandfather the Prince of Wales; grandmother Doria Ragland; paternal great-aunts Lady Jane Fellowes and Lady Sarah McCorquodale; and his uncle and aunt the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge



The Queen and Prince Philip meet their eighth great-grandchild, Archie, in 2019. Meghan cradles the newborn while her mother Doria looks on with Harry. By 2020, the Sussexes had relocated to California (inset)



When the Queen met Archie Harrison Mountbatten-Windsor at Windsor Castle, two days after his birth, she was every bit the thrilled great-grandmother, gazing at the tiny bundle in the arms of his mother, the Duchess of Sussex.

Born on 6 May 2019 at London's Portland Hospital, Archie has had a very different life from his royal cousins. After his first six months living close to his great-grandparents at Frogmore Cottage, on the Windsor estate, he is now growing up in his mother's native California, where neighbours in the coastal enclave of Montecito include Hollywood royalty such as Meghan's friend Oprah Winfrey.

Instead of appearances on the Buckingham Palace balcony and trips to the polo with his cousins, Archie spends his time cycling, going to the beach and caring for the family's rescue chickens.

The Sussexes' decision to give up their roles as senior royals in 2020 was, in part, driven by their desire to

give their son privacy and a normal upbringing. And, while their exit from the royal family was troubled, the Queen was at pains to support their decision.

"Harry, Meghan and Archie will always be much-loved members of my family," Her Majesty declared.

## ALWAYS IN TOUCH

Living in the US means Archie has not got to know his royal relatives as well as he otherwise might have done – though he and his sister accompanied their parents to the UK in June 2022 for the Platinum Jubilee weekend – but modern technology did allow the Queen to keep in touch with her eighth great-grandchild.

Prince Harry told how Her Majesty and the Duke of Edinburgh enjoyed chatting to Archie via video app. "Both my grandparents do Zoom," said Harry at the time.

Now sixth in line, Archie did not automatically have a title at birth but, with his grandfather now King, he is entitled to be a Prince.



## LILIBET MOUNTBATTEN-WINDSOR



The Sussexes are the picture of a relaxed Californian family in their 2021 Christmas card. Below: Lilibet smiles in the first birthday portrait taken at Windsor and shared by her parents

**'Lili is named after her great-grandmother, Her Majesty the Queen'**

**L**ilibet Diana Mountbatten-Windsor was a year old before she met the Queen. The tot – named in tribute to her great-grandmother, who couldn't pronounce her full name when very young – was introduced to Her Majesty at Windsor Castle, with her parents and big brother, who were in the UK for the Platinum Jubilee.

The Queen's 11th great-grandchild was the first born

outside the UK, and Buckingham Palace said the Queen was "delighted" at her arrival on 4 June 2021.

On announcing Lilibet's birth, Harry and Meghan explained: "Lili is named after her great-grandmother, Her Majesty The Queen, whose family nickname is Lilibet. Her middle name, Diana, was chosen to honour her beloved late grandmother, the Princess of Wales."

Seventh in line to the throne, Lili, like Archie, was born without a title, but she is entitled to be a Princess now that her grandfather has become monarch.

### BORN IN THE USA

The couple told of their joy at discovering they were expecting a girl, revealing their baby's gender to talk-show host Oprah Winfrey during a televised interview. "To have any child, any one or any

two, would have been amazing," Harry said. "But to have a boy and then a girl – I mean, what more can you ask for?"

Like her brother, Lili is being raised in the US following her parents' move there after stepping down as working royals. While this means she did not have the opportunity to get to know her great-grandmother and namesake, her sweet nickname lives on. ▶



# Princess Beatrice was always close to her grandmother

**SIENNA  
MAPELLI MOZZI**

**T**he Queen must have been especially delighted when her 12th great-grandchild, Sienna, was given the middle name Elizabeth, in tribute to her.

Sienna's mother Princess Beatrice was always close to her grandmother, as was evident when she borrowed a vintage Norman Hartnell gown from the monarch to wear at her wedding to Edoardo Mapelli Mozzi at the Royal Chapel of All Saints in Windsor.

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh were among a handful of guests at the low-key ceremony, which was held in July 2020. Emotions were no doubt heightened at the intimate event because lockdown measures had delayed it by two months.

## CLOSE BOND

Naturally, Beatrice was keen for her own daughter to share the close relationship with the Queen that she had enjoyed. With her parents, the Duke of York and Sarah, Duchess of York, living at Royal Lodge in Windsor, there was plenty of opportunity for Beatrice to take Sienna to visit Her Majesty when she was in residence at Windsor Castle.

As the youngest of the new generation of royals, Sienna has plenty of playmates to look out for her. She is also doted on by Prince Andrew and Sarah, who were thrilled to become grandparents twice over in a year.

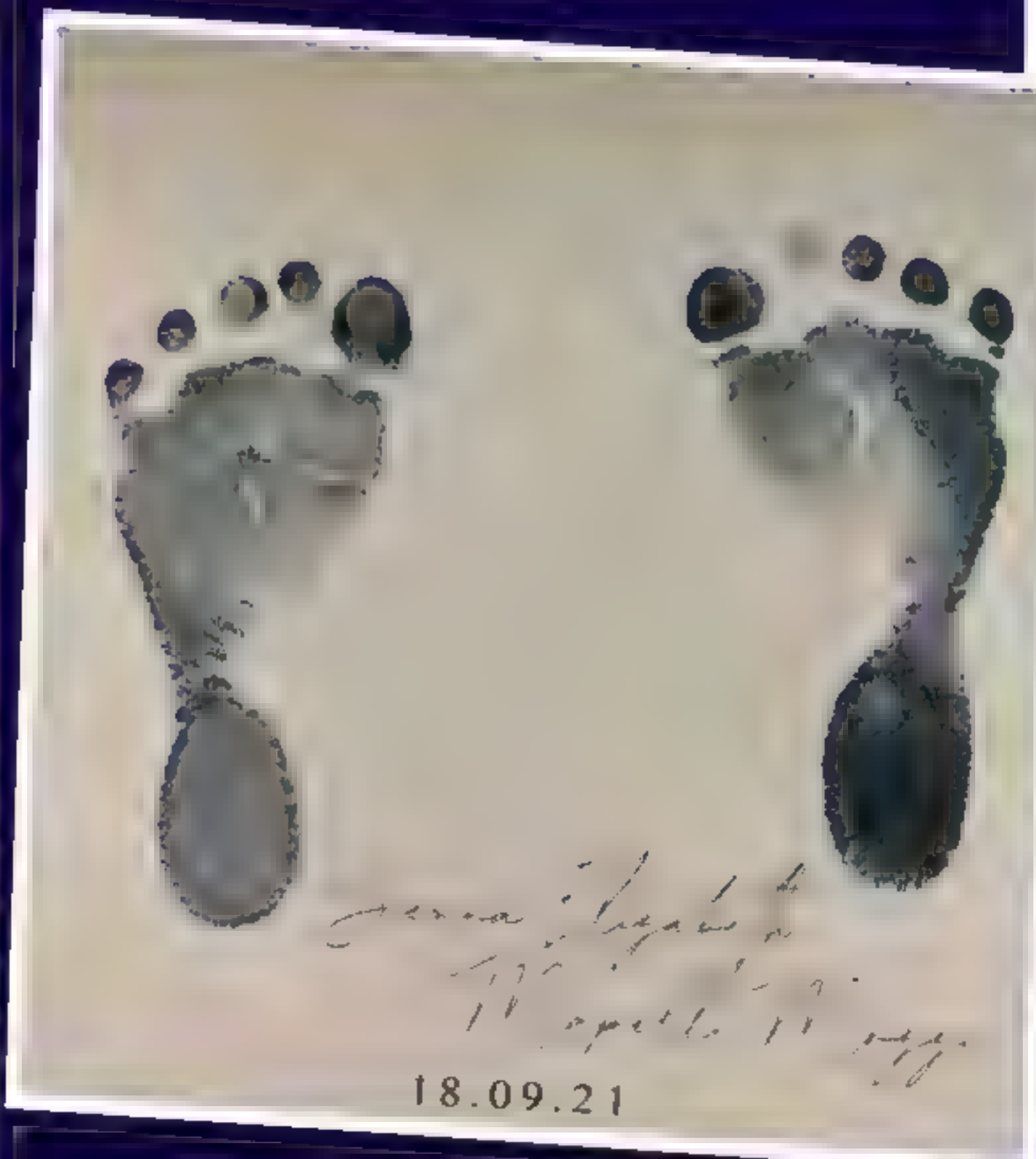
"It is an extraordinary feeling when your child becomes a mother," Sarah said. "Suddenly my little girlies have their own little ones."

Sienna, who is tenth in line to the throne behind mum Beatrice, also has a big brother, Christopher "Wolfie" Woolf – Edoardo's son from a previous relationship – and a doting aunty in Beatrice's younger sister Eugenie, whose young son August is just seven months older.

Following Sienna's birth, Eugenie wrote on Instagram: "To my new niece. I love you already... we're going to have so much fun together."



The Queen and Prince Philip attend Beatrice's marriage to Edoardo Mapelli Mozzi, who proposed in Italy (left). Below: With her middle name, Sienna Elizabeth follows in significant footsteps







## AUGUST BROOKSBANK

**T**he Queen was an honoured guest at the christening of August Brooksbank in November 2021. The monarch had been one of the first people Princess Eugenie confided in when Jack Brooksbank proposed to her in 2018, so it's no surprise Eugenie wanted her to be a significant part of her son's life.

August Philip Hawke Brooksbank is named after Queen Victoria's consort Prince Albert, whose middle name was Augustus, while his own middle name Philip is a sweet nod to his great-grandfather the Duke of Edinburgh, who died less than two months after August's birth at London's Portland Hospital on 21 February 2021.

"We named [him] August Philip, because Grandpa has been such a huge, inspiring character in my life," Eugenie explained.

### MEETING GRANDPA

She also revealed that she was able to take baby August, who is now 12th in the line of succession, to meet his namesake before the Duke passed away.

"I brought little August to come and meet him," Eugenie said. "I told him that we'd named him after him. It was such a lovely moment. We were very lucky to do that."

Despite never being able to get to know his great-grandfather, August was fortunate to have the Queen as a close neighbour while he was growing up at Frogmore Cottage, on the Windsor estate.

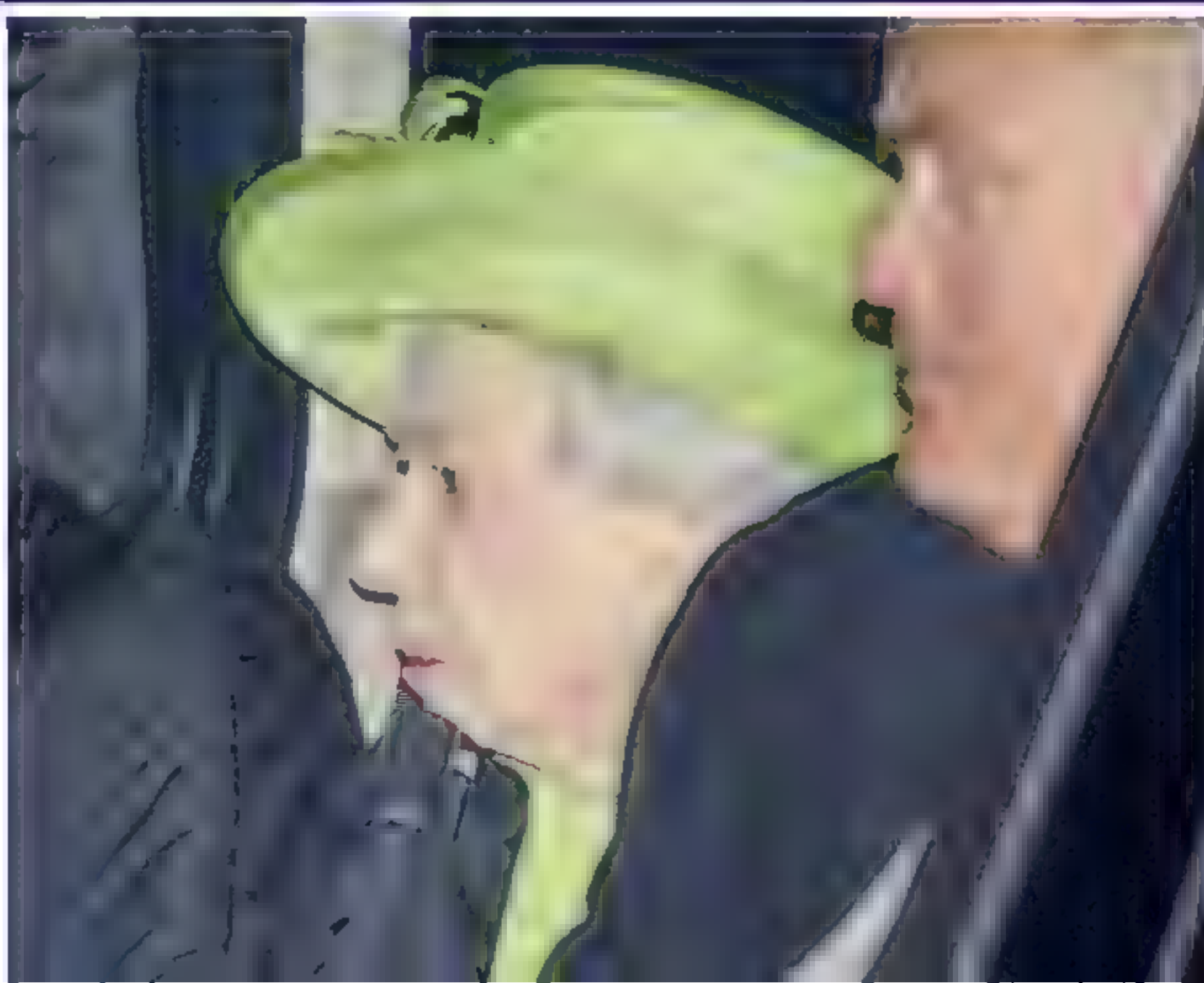
He was also able to join the monarch during her summer holiday at Balmoral in Scotland, where she always delighted in spending time with the younger members of her family.

At the time, Eugenie said: "I think Granny is the most happy there, I think she really, really loves the Highlands... Walks, picnics, dogs – a lot of dogs, there's always dogs..."

"Family-wise we're all there, so it's a lovely base for Granny and Grandpa to be – for us to come and see them up there." ▶



**His first family holiday was to see the Queen at Balmoral**



Princess Eugenie and Jack Brooksbank introduce baby August Philip to the world in 2021 (above). Although doctors had advised the Queen to rest due to a sprained back, she made sure she attended the joint christening of August and his second cousin Lucas Tindall that November (left). August showed his patriotism as he sat on his mother's knee at the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Pageant (right)





## SAVANNAH AND ISLA PHILLIPS



**T**he arrival of Savannah Anne Kathleen Phillips on 29 December 2010 marked a joyous milestone for the Queen as she became a great-grandmother for the first time.

Buckingham Palace announced that Her Majesty was “delighted with the news” – but even she couldn’t have guessed she would be blessed 12 times over in her lifetime.

Savannah and her sister Isla, who is 15 months her junior, are the daughters of Peter Phillips, the Queen’s eldest grandchild and the son of the Princess Royal, and his ex-wife Autumn.

### A SHARED LOVE OF HORSES

The girls have been growing up on Princess Anne’s Gatcombe Park estate in Gloucestershire and have inherited the Queen’s love of horses and riding – a passion their grandmother also shares.

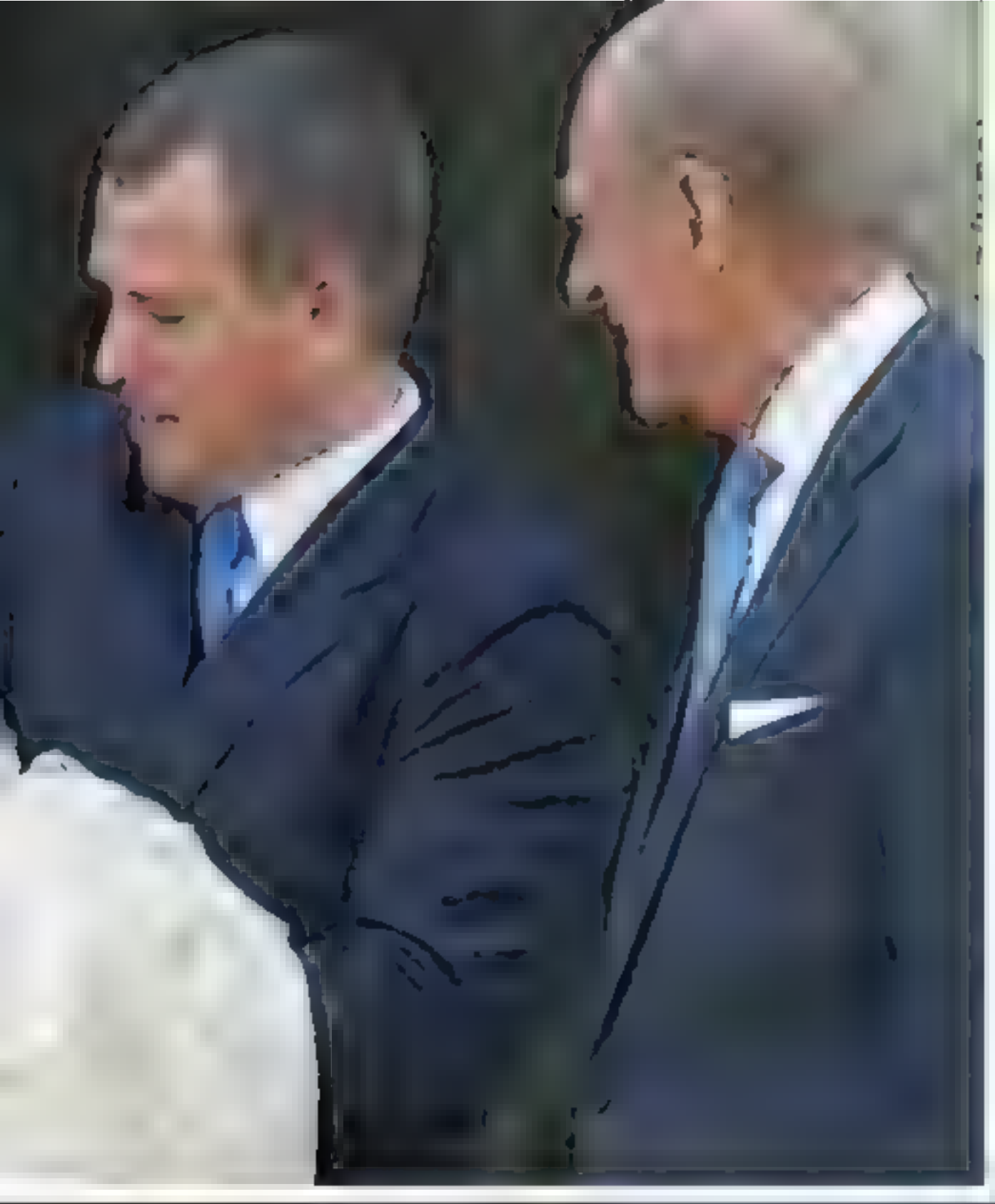
“They’re all outdoor girls and not afraid of a little dirt. They enjoy riding their Shetland ponies,” their mother Autumn has said.

The eldest of the youngest generation of



Savannah (left) and Isla at the Gloucestershire estate of their grandmother the Princess Royal for the Gatcombe Horse Trials in 2019





Proud parents Autumn and Peter Phillips with the Duke of Edinburgh at Savannah's christening in 2011 (above). The couple have since divorced and Autumn (right, with the girls) shares custody of their daughters with Peter

**The birth of Savannah made the Queen a great-grandmother for the first time**



royals, Savannah loves playing with her young cousins and often keeps them in check, too.

Although their father isn't a working royal, Savannah and Isla, who are 18th and 19th in line to the throne, have still supported their great-grandmother and made official appearances, most notably on Buckingham Palace's balcony at Trooping the Colour. It was here in 2018 that Savannah was spotted

clasping her hand over her cousin Prince George's mouth as the rest of the family managed to stifle giggles. The girls were also bridesmaids at Princess Eugenie's wedding and regularly joined the Queen at church for a Christmas Day service at Sandringham.

Hosting a big family Christmas at her Norfolk home was one of Her Majesty's greatest pleasures and she delighted in

introducing a new generation to decorating the tree. In a TV documentary in 2018, she described how the excited youngsters often got carried away while putting the baubles up. "The children love knocking those off," she said. "Well my great-grandchildren do, anyway. They enjoy themselves. And the great thing is to make them decorate it and they're a bit more careful." ▶



Savannah with her mum Autumn at Badminton Horse Trials in 2013 (left). By 2018, she was enjoying her status as the eldest great-grandchild of the Queen by keeping Prince George in check at Trooping the Colour (inset next left) – as his parents tried to keep suitably straight faces. Little Isla, meanwhile, was standing on the other side of George on the balcony (right)





## MIA, LENA AND LUCAS TINDALL



Fun-loving Lena larks about in face paint (above) and like any four-year-old enjoys bouncing on a trampoline – overseen by father Mike – (right) during a family day out (above) to support her mother Zara at an equestrian event this summer



**Z**ara Tindall gave the Queen three beautiful great-grandchildren: Mia, Lena and Lucas.

Mia Grace, the fourth of the new generation, was born without a title on 17 January 2014 at Gloucestershire Royal NHS hospital, rather than at one of the private London maternity wings where royal babies are usually delivered, and is now 21st in line to the throne.

Sporty like her parents, she seems well on

her way to becoming an accomplished rider like her Olympic silver medallist mother Zara, her grandmother the Princess Royal – and, of course, the Queen, who continued to ride well into her 90s. Living on Anne's Gatcombe Park estate enabled Mia to start riding at the age of three, accompanied by her cousins Savannah and Isla.

The fun-loving trio are frequently seen racing around together at equestrian events as

Zara competes – and now Mia has two more companions for her fun in the form of her little sister and brother.

Lena was the Queen's seventh great-grandchild and was given the middle name Elizabeth in tribute to Her Majesty.

Mike and Zara Tindall's middle child, who was born in an NHS maternity unit on 18 June 2018, was also the heaviest royal baby in recent history, at 9lb 3oz.



**'She's got quite a  
little personality on  
her, and we  
encourage that'  
Mike Tindall**

Like her mother, she doesn't have a royal title and, despite her regal middle name, her first name was chosen simply because her parents liked it. "I liked the name Elena [the ancient Greek word for light] but I didn't want her initials to be ET, so it's Lena," said Zara.

#### **IT'S A BOY**

Lena became a big sister with the arrival of brother Lucas Philip on 21 March 2021, whose middle name honours his great-grandfather Prince Philip.

Dad Mike was thrilled to have a baby boy to complete their family and had said during Zara's pregnancy: "I'll love it whether a boy or a girl – but please be a boy."

Lucas's arrival during the Covid-19 pandemic was nothing short of dramatic and Mike described how his son was delivered on the bathroom floor at home, rather than in hospital as planned, after an unexpectedly quick labour.

"So yeah, it was running to the gym, get a mat, get into the bathroom, get the mat on the floor, towels down, brace, brace, brace," Mike said later.

While the pandemic prevented Her Majesty and Prince Philip from seeing much of their family and its new additions, she was delighted to be able to attend the double celebration in November 2021 that saw both Lucas and his cousin August Brooksbank christened in Windsor.

Lucas made his public debut when he was five weeks old, at the Cirencester International Horse Trials. **H**



Credited by her father as having "a big personality", Mia takes charge of her baby brother Lucas. A snap of her sharing a picnic with her great-grandfather Prince Philip (left) hints that the pair had a strong bond





# A STAR AMONG STARS

*From Marilyn Monroe to Angelina Jolie, Her Majesty outshone them all*



**I**n her more than seven decades as monarch the Queen met some of the biggest names from the world of entertainment. But even the biggest have talked of being starstruck at meeting her. Countless celebrities were left impressed by Her Majesty's poise, informed interest and good humour.

"You're thinking: 'It's the Queen, it's the Queen!' I'm genuinely always astounded by her aura, her twinkle, her presence," said Dame Helen Mirren, who played Her Majesty twice – in the film *The Queen*, for which she won an Oscar, and the stage play *The Audience* – and has visited Buckingham Palace on a number of occasions.

With her glamorous wardrobe the Queen even outshone stunning Hollywood stars. Marilyn Monroe – the most photographed woman in the world at the time – more than met her match in the monarch, who was elegant in a black off-the-shoulder gown and her Grand Duchess Vladimir tiara at the 1956 royal film performance of *The Battle of the River Plate* in London's Leicester Square.

Decades later, in 2009, pop superstar Lady Gaga wore scarlet latex to meet the Queen backstage in Blackpool, after a less racy than usual performance at the Royal Variety Performance. "I wanted to dress like a queen in a British fashion, and I also

wanted to do it in my way," she told *Vogue*. "I had to tone down my act, but all of that doesn't matter because I'm a massive fan of the Queen."

Angelina Jolie wore dove-grey Ralph & Russo to meet Her Majesty in 2014 when the Oscar-winning actress was made an honorary dame for her campaigning work fighting sexual violence. Visiting Buckingham Palace with her then husband Brad Pitt and their six children, she described the Queen as a "lovely lady who really cares about people around the world".

## AT HER BECKS AND CALL

Even former England captain David Beckham – who once called the Queen "the inspiration our country deserves" – was starstruck meeting the monarch at the palace. "It gives me goosebumps just driving through the gate," he said. "I've been here a couple of times and every time it is very special."

Benedict Cumberbatch, on whom Her Majesty bestowed the CBE in 2015, agreed. "It's quite nerve-racking," he said. "There is nothing really that prepares you for it."

As far as Joan Collins – who was made a Dame in the Queen's 2015 New Year's Honours list – was concerned, no one came close to eclipsing her: "The most wonderful, incredible woman and just a great Queen. There will never be anyone like her again." **H**



(Clockwise from below) Meeting screen queen Dame Helen Mirren – who played Her Majesty twice – at Buckingham Palace in 2011; a handshake for then England captain David Beckham in 2002; a deep bow from pop royalty Lady Gaga in 2009; and every bit as glamorous as Marilyn Monroe in 1956





**'I'm always  
astounded by  
her aura, her  
twinkle, her  
presence'  
Dame Helen  
Mirren**



After a private audience at Buckingham Palace in 2014 to honour Angelina Jolie for her humanitarian work, the actress said the Queen was "a lovely lady who really cares about people around the world"



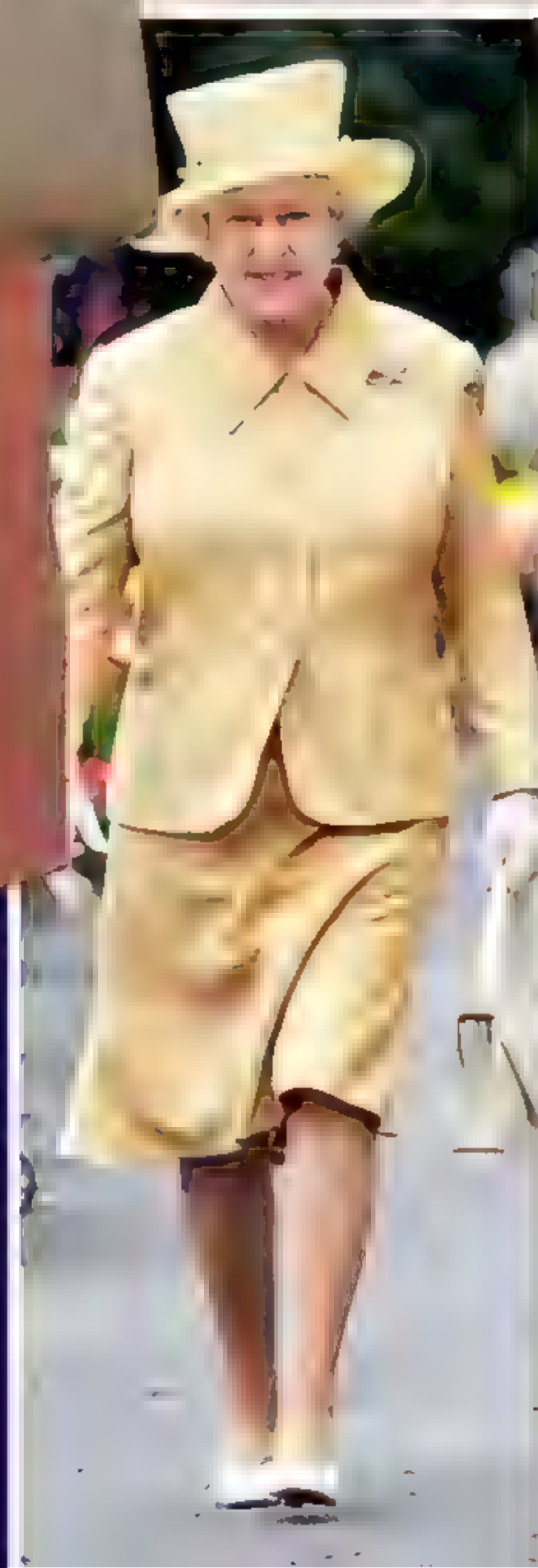
The Queen was no stranger to meeting Hollywood legends, including Elizabeth Taylor, together with her husband John Warner, at a gala dinner in Washington in 1976, and (right) Frank Sinatra at a London film premiere in 1953





# OUR STYLE QUEEN

*Ever elegant and discreetly dazzling, Her Majesty's fashions were unrivalled*



**F**ashions came and went during the Queen's long reign, but one thing remained constant: her sense of style.

Coming to the throne at a relatively early age, she set about carefully constructing an image that conveyed authority, elegance and decorum – always taking into consideration the need to be seen.

"I can't wear beige because people won't know who I am," she once explained.

"She needs to stand out – for people to be able to say: 'I saw the Queen,'" said the Countess of Wessex of her mother-in-law's style.

Over the years she wore a dizzying total of more than 10,000 outfits for

her official engagements, refining the art of communicating through every one – from a diplomatic colour choice subtly reflecting the occasion to a piece of jewellery carefully selected for the history attached.

Some items became much-loved staples – Launer handbags, Cornelia James gloves, Anello & Davide pumps and her unrivalled collection of heirloom brooches.

It's because of this enduring sense of style that *Vogue* named her one of its most glamorous, while designer Miuccia Prada called her "one of the most elegant women the world has ever seen".

As granddaughter Princess Beatrice said: "Her style is something unique to her." ▶



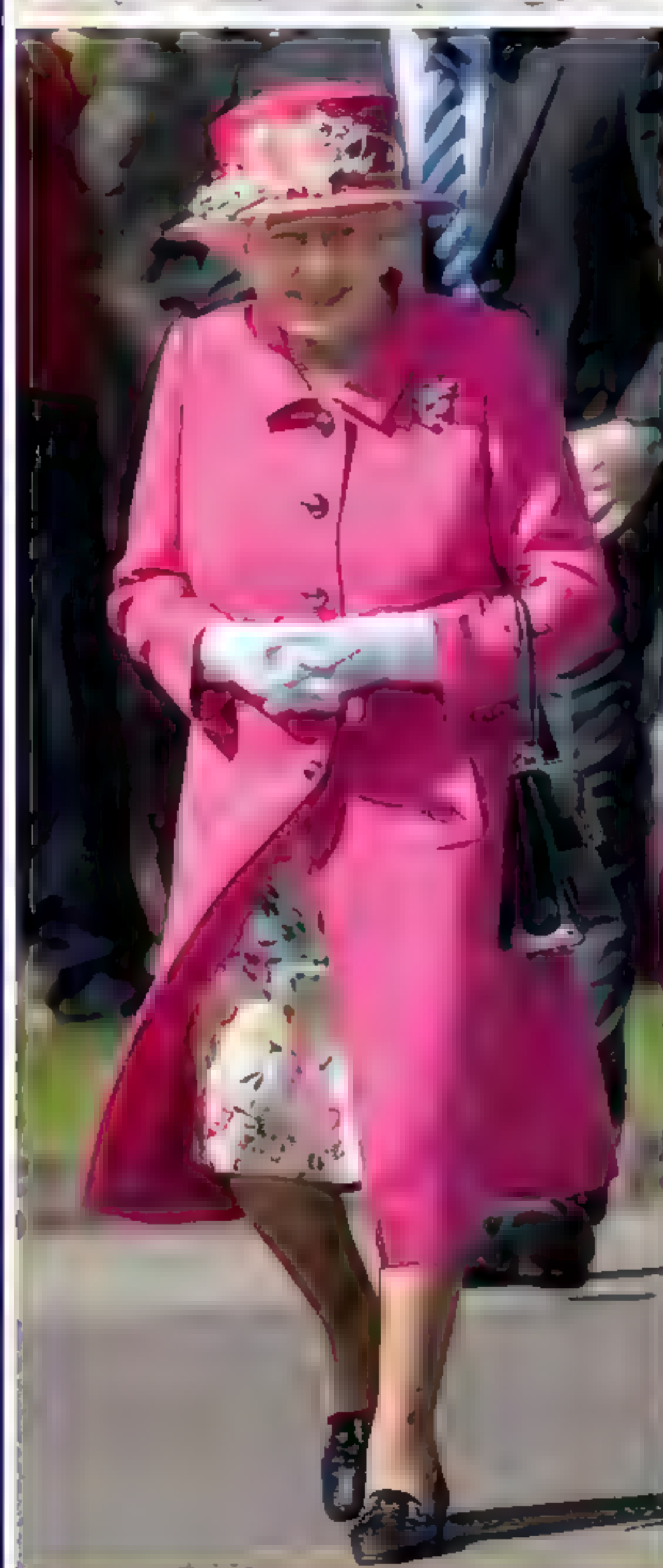
## PERFECT PASTELS

Her Majesty loved softer shades – usually teamed with Cornelia James gloves and a Launer handbag. Clockwise from left: Going for gold in London in 2002; a Stewart Parvin apricot wool coat and silk patterned dress with Rachel Trevor-Morgan hat for granddaughter Zara's wedding in 2011; a wool crepe dress with matching coat and hat – all by Angela Kelly, her long-time wardrobe adviser, and all in lilac to complement the Elizabeth Line logo at its unveiling in London in 2016; a subtle take on Australia's national colours green and gold at Sydney Opera House in 2006; and true blue in Ontario, Canada in 2010. Opposite, from left: Blooming in primrose yellow at a Buckingham Palace reception in 2008; and pretty in pink with elegant black detailing, at Oxford Castle in 2006









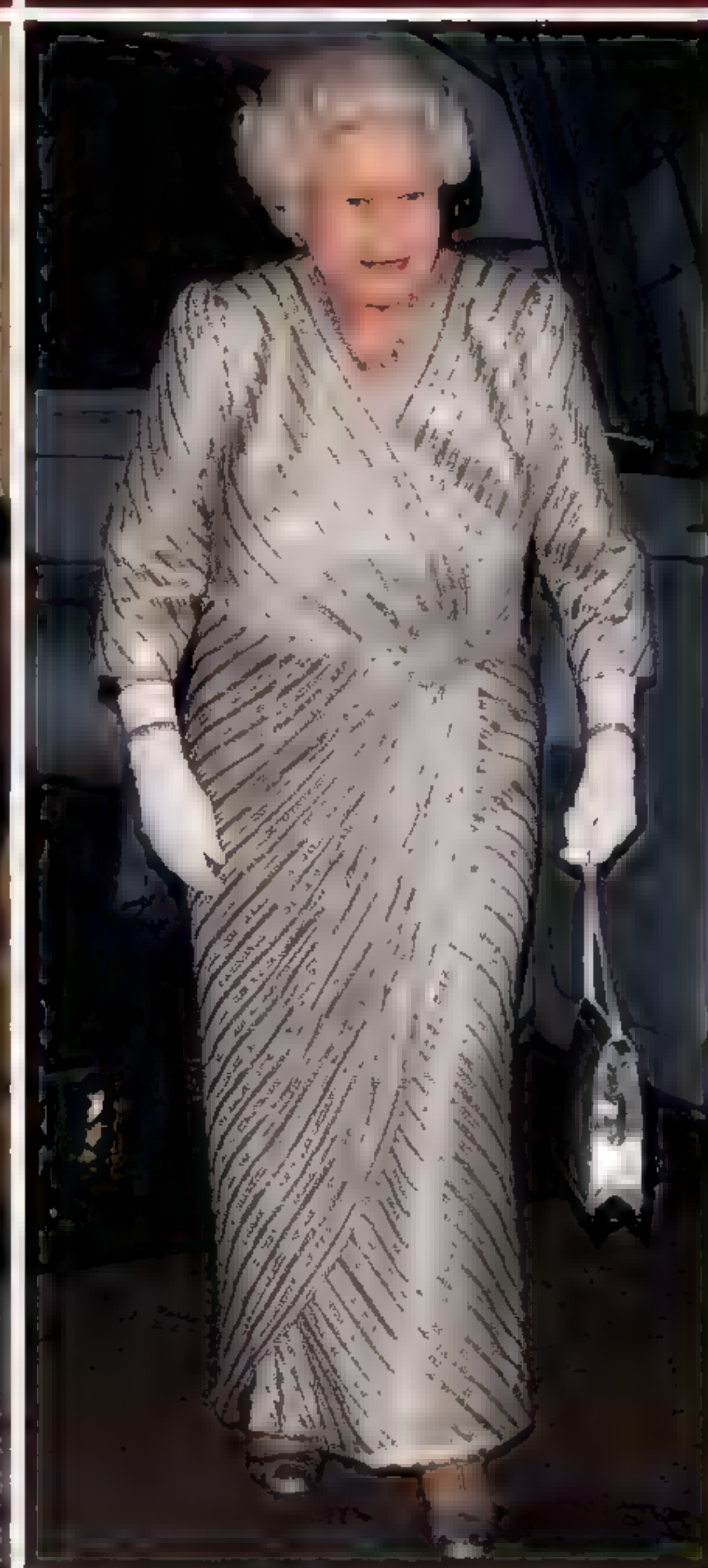
## COLOUR BLOCKING

One of the defining themes of Her Majesty's wardrobe was bright block colours. Her Majesty kept her unofficial uniform – a tailored coat worn over a dress with matching hat – fresh over the years by sporting a host of bold shades. Clockwise from left: In deep red – one of the colours of the national flag of Slovakia – at the Presidential Palace in Bratislava, 2008; bright blue for a visit to Gloucester in 2009; regal purple for the opening of London's Jubilee Gardens in 2012; green – of course – for a visit to Ireland in 2011; in vibrant fuchsia at Alexandra Gardens in Windsor in 2016. Opposite: Turquoise tones for the Maundy Service at Westminster Abbey in 2011









## GLITTERING OCCASIONS

For evening, the Queen would often strike a sartorial balance between effortlessly elegant and downright dazzling. Clockwise from left: Harlequin-patterned sequins for the Royal Variety Performance in 1999; more sequins, this time coral, for a film premiere in 2008; crystal-embellished turquoise for a banquet in Singapore in 2006; a golden gown for the Royal Variety Performance in 2012; and shimmering green and blue tones at a London concert in 1995. Opposite, from left: Glittering at a gala dinner the night before the wedding of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge in 2011; and golden tones for a 2001 banquet in Guernsey

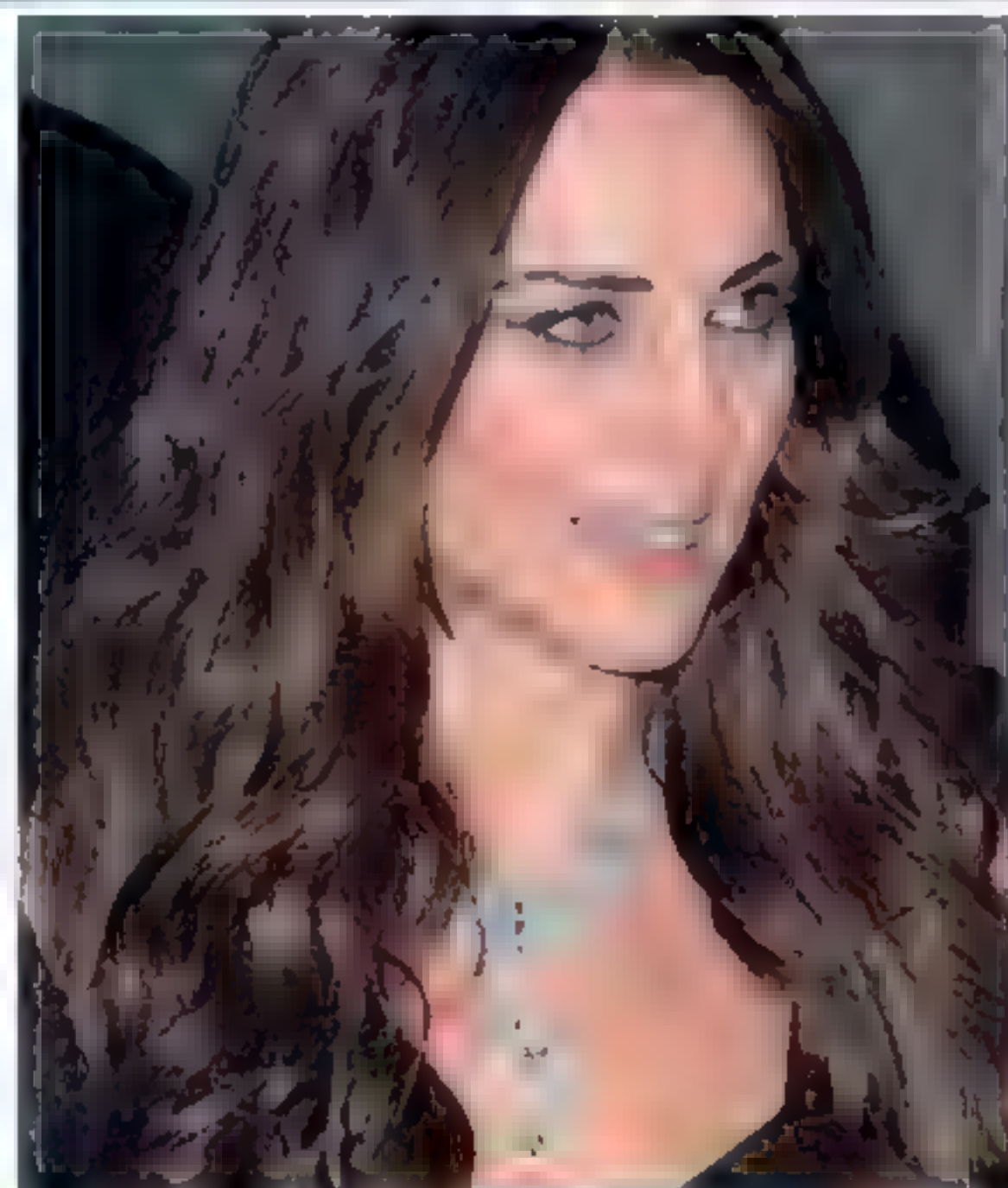






# JEWELS AND GLAMOUR

*The dazzling jewellery that complemented those showstopping outfits*



## CARTIER NECKLACE

This stunning platinum and diamond necklace, designed to look like an English rose adorned with foliage (worn by the Duchess of Cambridge in 2014, above) was a gift from the Nizam of Hyderabad and Berar. The ruler of the Indian state purchased it from Cartier as a wedding present for Princess Elizabeth in 1947.

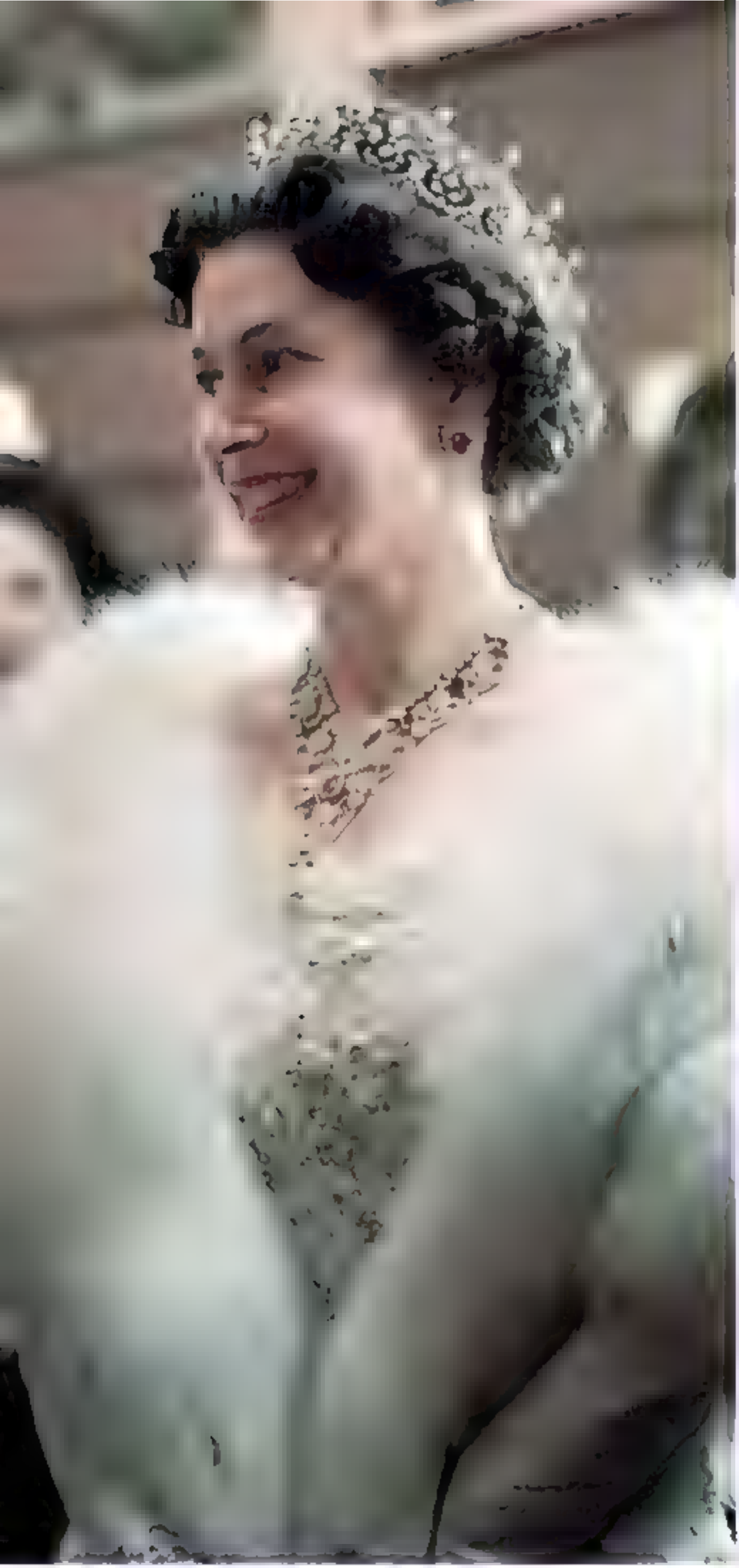


## QUEEN MARY'S GIRLS OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND TIARA

A wedding present in 1893 to Princess Victoria Mary of Teck, later Queen Mary – the Queen's grandmother. She gave it to her granddaughter as a wedding gift in 1947. Crafted by Garrard with pearls, these were replaced in 1920 with diamonds – the original gems now feature in the Cambridge Lover's Knot Tiara.

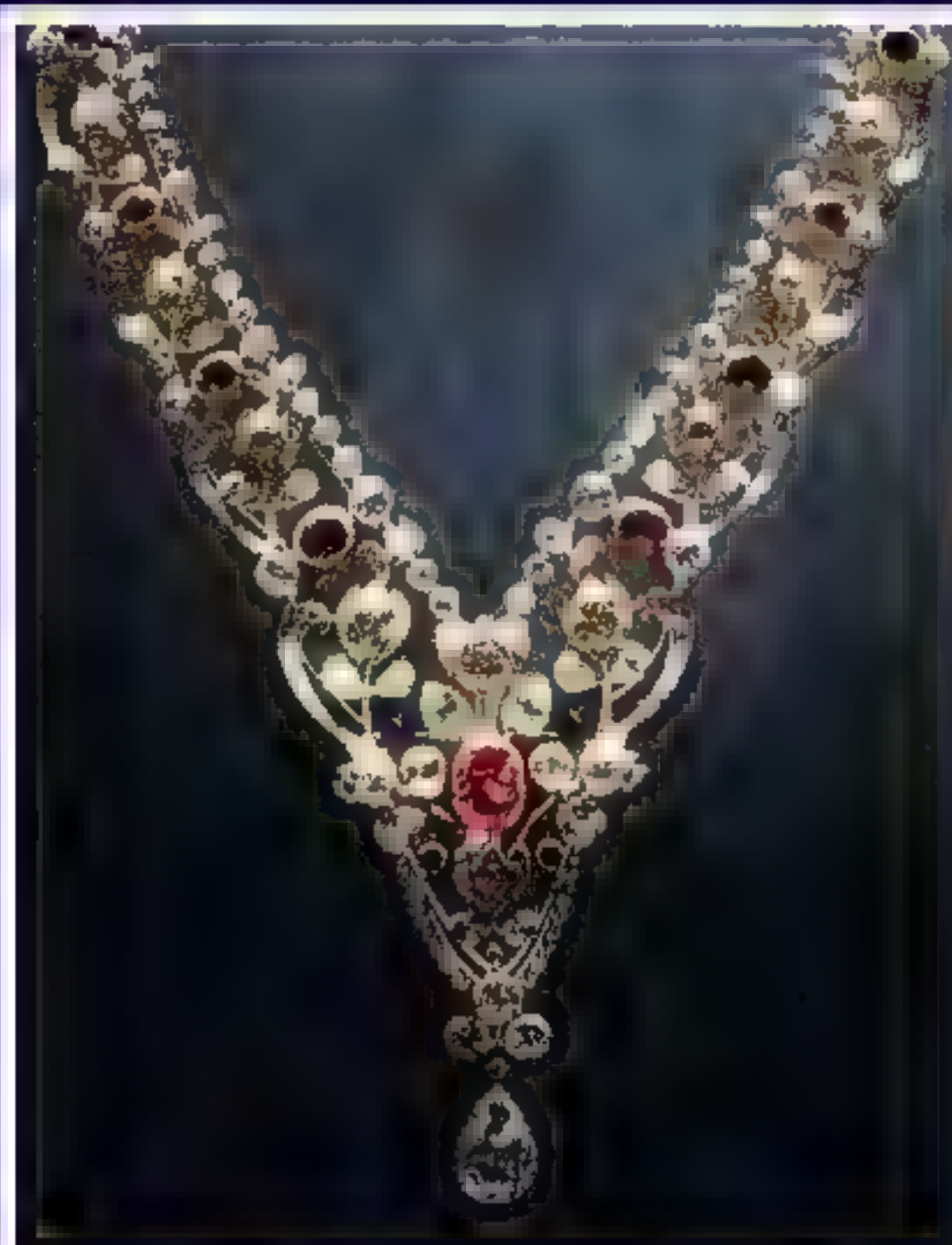
In a photo taken to mark her accession to the throne, Her Majesty wears the Queen Mary's Girls of Great Britain and Ireland Tiara, the Queen Mary's Dorset bow brooch and the Queen's Wedding Bracelet – a gift from Prince Philip and borrowed by the Duchess of Cambridge in 2015





The Queen wears the Bandeau Necklace – a wedding gift from her parents – in Australia in 1954; and the Brazilian Aquamarine Tiara for a 2006 state banquet (far right) honouring the Brazilian President

**With an Aladdin's cave of priceless jewellery, she had spectacular ways to show off her style**



**KING GEORGE VI AND QUEEN ELIZABETH BANDEAU NECKLACE**

This V-shaped diamond and ruby necklace with intricate floral detailing showcases Victorian workmanship and was purchased by George VI and Queen Elizabeth as a wedding present for their daughter. It features a gem-studded bandeau collar with a large pear-shaped drop-diamond pendant as its sparkling centrepiece.



**BRAZILIAN AQUAMARINE TIARA**

The Queen commissioned this tiara in 1957 from Garrard to match the earrings and necklace she had been given by the Brazilian people on her coronation. It was updated in 1971 to include aquamarine and diamonds she had received during a visit to Brazil several years previously.

**T**hough she was naturally understated in her taste, the Queen was not averse to putting on the glitz when required. "She didn't try to dress like a celebrity, but she did have a certain glamour because of who she was," said royal biographer Sarah Bradford.

With a wardrobe estimated to include more than 10,000 outfits and an Aladdin's cave of priceless jewellery, Her Majesty had some spectacular ways to show off her style.

Most of her jewels were legacies from two formidable royal matriarchs – her grandmother Queen Mary and her great-great-grandmother Queen Victoria.

#### PRIZED PRESENT

Particularly treasured from this trove was the Girls of Great Britain and Ireland Tiara, a wedding gift from Queen Mary, who had been given it on the occasion of her own marriage in 1893.

Other wedding gifts to the then Princess Elizabeth included the Dorset Bow Brooch, another gift from Queen Mary, a platinum and diamond Cartier necklace from the Nizam of Hyderabad and Berar and a ruby and diamond





**Her most stunning  
pieces came out  
for visits abroad,  
state dinners,  
premieres and  
ceremonies**



### **VLADIMIR TIARA**

Commissioned for Grand Duchess Vladimir – the aunt of Nicholas II, the last Tsar of Russia – on her marriage in 1874. It was smuggled out during the revolution and later sold to Queen Mary. In 1924, she adapted the tiara so emeralds could be set within its interlaced diamond circles instead of the original pearls (the Queen wears the tiara with its pearls, top).

The Queen in 1956 wearing the Vladimir Tiara, Delhi Durbar Necklace and Cullinan VII Pendant. She also wears Queen Mary's Dorset Bow Brooch and the Star of the Order of the Garter, given to the then Princess Elizabeth in 1947, shortly before her wedding, on her appointment as Lady of the Garter



### **DELHI DURBAR NECKLACE**

In 1911 George V and Queen Mary became Emperor and Empress of India and this necklace of Indian emeralds was made for the Delhi Durbar – a mass celebration. It boasts the 8.8ct Cullinan VII, one of nine stones cut from the largest diamond ever found.





### DIAMOND DIADÉM

Set on a band with two rows of pearls, this combines roses, thistles and shamrocks as national symbols of Great Britain and is set with 1,333 diamonds. It was made for George IV's 1821 coronation but turned out to be barely visible once perched on top of his large velvet Cap of State. The Queen wore it for the State Opening of Parliament every year.

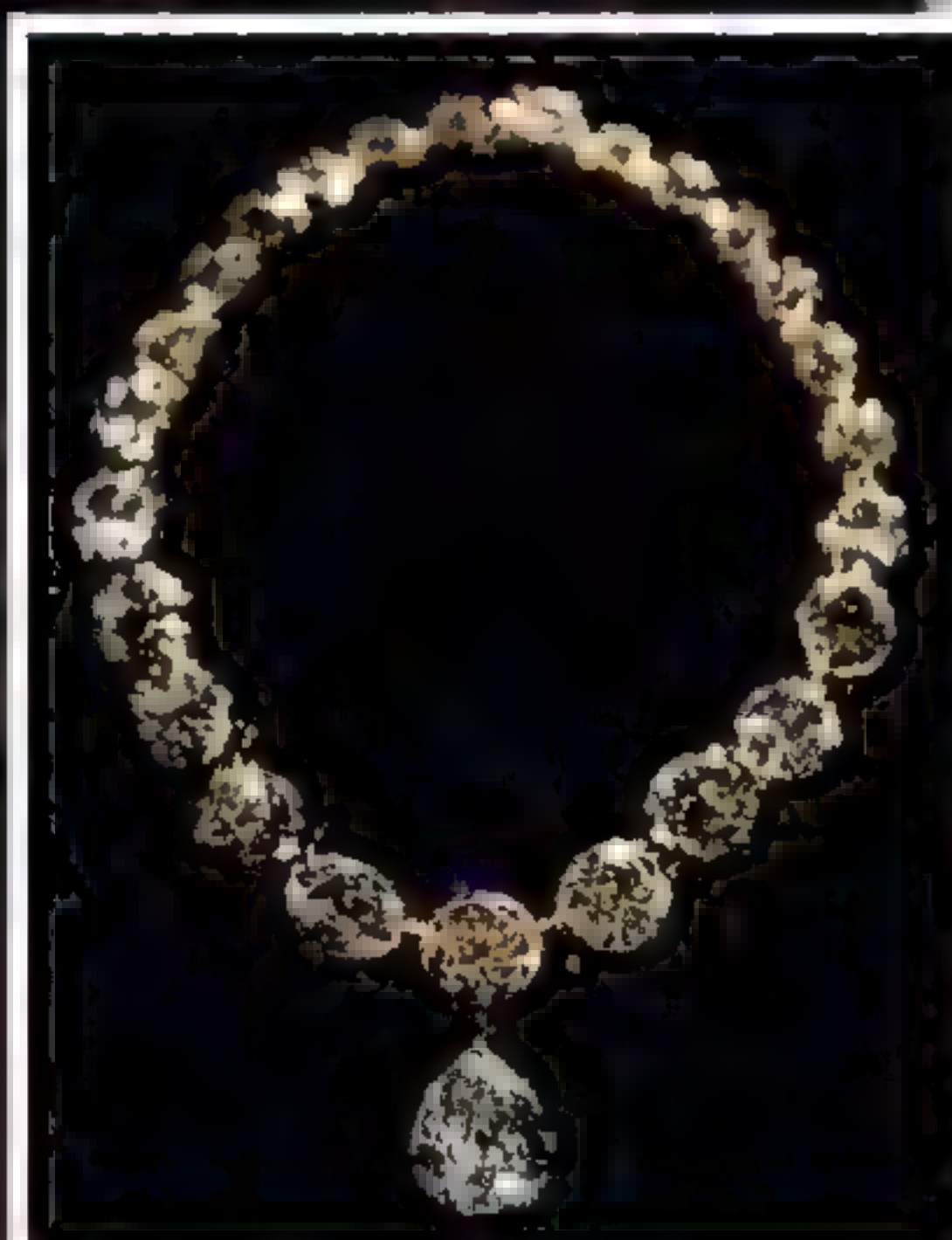
bandeau necklace from her parents George VI and Queen Elizabeth.

Her parents added several other jewels to her collection. These included the Queen Anne and Queen Caroline strands of pearls, which she wore on her wedding day, a Boucheron ruby and diamond necklace and a sapphire and diamond Victorian necklace and earrings.

The most spectacular pieces came out for visits abroad, state dinners and ceremonies, and film premieres. "The Queen was a businesswoman who dressed for her lifestyle," observed late royal milliner Frederick Fox.



For a banquet during her 1954 visit to Australia, the Queen is radiant in the Coronation Necklace and her favourite Girls of Great Britain and Ireland Tiara (right). She's just as resplendent for the State Opening of Parliament in 2006 (above), for which she wears the Diamond Diadem



### CORONATION NECKLACE

Made for Queen Victoria in 1858, this necklace of 25 cushion-cut diamonds was worn at the coronations of Queens Alexandra in 1902, Mary in 1911, and Elizabeth II in 1953. Its centrepiece is a 22.48ct pendant, known as the Lahore Diamond.





# QUEEN OF THE WORLD

*A royal figurehead for a global community*



**A**s Queen of 15 realms and Head of the Commonwealth, Elizabeth II was the most travelled monarch in British history. She visited more than 120 countries across the globe on more than 271 overseas trips and she famously began her reign while on tour in Kenya, when her father George VI died.

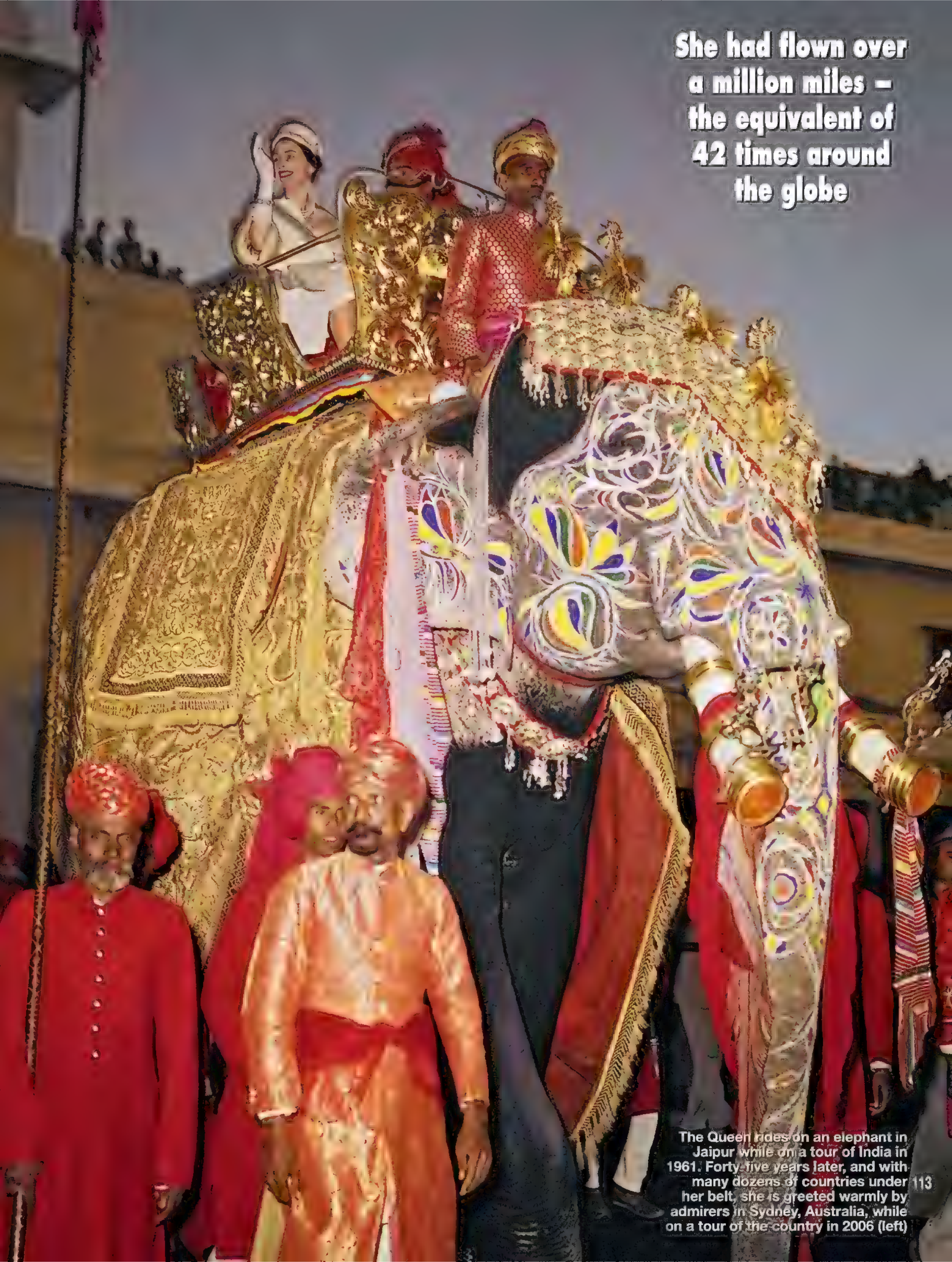
As well as travelling to 51 of 54 Commonwealth countries on more than 200 trips, she visited dozens more at the request of the Government, including Libya, Iran, Nepal, Thailand, Chile, Mexico, Russia and China.

By the time she gave up overseas travel in 2015 after a last state visit to Germany and a trip to Malta, she had flown some 1,032,513 miles – the equivalent of 42 times around the globe.

Her longest trip was a 44,000-mile Commonwealth tour in 1953, along with 12 tons of luggage, while the country that she visited the most is ►



**She had flown over  
a million miles –  
the equivalent of  
42 times around  
the globe**



The Queen rides on an elephant in Jaipur while on a tour of India in 1961. Forty-five years later, and with many dozens of countries under her belt, she is greeted warmly by admirers in Sydney, Australia, while on a tour of the country in 2006 (left)



## The Queen was keen for her heirs to share her enthusiasm for the Commonwealth

Canada with 27 trips, followed by Australia, with 16.

Although famously politically neutral, Her Majesty played a vital diplomatic role.

In 1961, she travelled to Ghana amid fears for her safety at a time when the country's President, Kwame Nkrumah, was under threat of assassination.

As concern grew over his ties to the Soviet Union and the potential withdrawal of his country from the Commonwealth, the monarch launched a major charm offensive.

She famously took to the dancefloor with the President at a farewell ball in Accra – a deeply symbolic moment at a time when the apartheid regime controlled

South Africa and the US was still had segregation laws. Her hugely successful visit ensured that Ghana was to remain in the "family of nations".

During her long reign, she met 13 out of 14 US Presidents – she was expecting Prince Edward in 1963 when Lyndon B Johnson took office – and hosted visiting world leaders well into her 90s.

### MILLION-MILE MONARCH

In the final years of her life, she welcomed state visits from Spain, the Netherlands, Colombia, Mexico and China as well as from the United States.

And over the decades she formed lasting friendships with foreign leaders, including South African President Nelson Mandela, who called her Elizabeth when they spoke on the phone.

But of her achievements on the world stage, the continued unity of the Commonwealth was the proudest of her remarkable reign.

The body comprised just eight countries when it was formed by George VI in 1949, at a time when Britain was dismantling its Empire as former colonies sought independence.

Elizabeth II became Head of the Commonwealth on her accession in 1952, stating at the time: "The Commonwealth bears no resemblance to the empires of the past. It is an entirely new conception built on the highest qualities of the spirit of man: friendship, loyalty, and the desire for freedom and peace."

The Government, wanting



A ceremonial welcome (above) on her 1961 visit to Ghana – and dancing with President Kwame Nkrumah (right) amid fears for her safety. The Queen and Duke of Edinburgh are borne aloft on a trip to Tuvalu in 1982 (below)







The Queen inspects a guard of honour outside the Canadian Parliament after arriving to attend the Canada Day celebrations 115 in Ottawa in 2010. Three days later she braved temperatures in excess of 30°C for a day at the races in Toronto, leading one Canadian journalist to describe her as “a heck of a trouper”



## Over the decades she formed lasting friendships with foreign leaders

to embrace these countries under one unifying banner, could see that the new Queen was critical in achieving it.

Since then, many countries have declared themselves republics but have remained within the Commonwealth, in part due to the Queen's presence and personality.

Under her stewardship, membership rose to 56 nations by the end of her life, with the Commonwealth population numbering 2.4 billion.

Speaking to world leaders in 2018, at the last Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting she was to attend in person, Her Majesty praised the "flourishing network", adding: "It is my sincere wish that the Commonwealth will continue to offer stability and continuity for future generations, and will decide that one day the Prince of Wales should carry on the important work started by my father in 1949.

"Put simply, we are one of the world's great convening powers: a global association of volunteers who believe in the tangible benefits that flow from exchanging ideas and experiences and respecting each other's point of view. And we seem to be growing stronger year by year. The advantages are plain to see."

### CALM AND CONSISTENCY

There were occasional rumblings of discontent and calls to remove the Queen as head of state over the years – in November 2021, she was replaced in Barbados by a ceremonial President when the Caribbean nation marked 50 years of independence from Britain.

However, most Commonwealth countries that had Her Majesty as ceremonial leader stuck by her. In 1999, when Australian voters were given the chance to remove her as head of state in a referendum, they rejected a republic in favour of maintaining existing links with the British Crown.

The Queen was keen for her heirs to share her enthusiasm for the organisation and they have committed to supporting it.

The new King – then Prince of Wales, who was named its next leader at that momentous meeting in 2018 – said at the time: "For my part, the Commonwealth has been a fundamental feature of my life for as long as I can remember, beginning with my ►

The Queen and Prince Philip take in the Great Wall of China, one of the wonders of the world, during their state visit to the country in 1986





The Queen is greeted by children outside her hotel in Berlin (above) at the end of her four-day state visit to Germany in 2015 – her final overseas trip. And posing for a group portrait with heads of government and representatives of Commonwealth nations, after attending a lunch in London in 2012 (below). Fostering this “family of nations” was one of the proudest endeavours of her illustrious reign





Although politically neutral she played a vital diplomatic role



With the Duke and Duchess of Sussex – then president and vice president of the Queen's Commonwealth Trust – and recipients of the Queen's Young Leaders Awards at Buckingham Palace in 2018 (above) – Her Majesty's final Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting. The next year the busy monarch, with the Prince of Wales and Duchess of Cornwall, hosted President Donald and Melania Trump at her London home (below)



first visit to Malta when I was just five years old."

At the same gathering, the then Duke of Cambridge described the Commonwealth as "the mother of all networks", adding: "What this gathering represents is a connection based on empathy, compassion and a shared desire to make our world a better place. There is no other network on earth that comes close to this – we must make the most of it, cherish it and protect it for the generations to come, who will build on it."

The Duke and Duchess of Sussex also briefly served as president and vice president of the Queen's Commonwealth Trust, joining Her Majesty to meet an international roster of Queen's Young Leaders at Buckingham Palace in 2018.

#### DUTY AND DEVOTION

The Queen's steadfast devotion over the years saw her attend 23 out of the 25 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meetings held since 1971.

At the final one she attended, in





President Barack and First Lady Michelle Obama are greeted by the Queen and Duke before an official dinner in 2011; and the Queen congratulates winners of the Commonwealth Youth Awards at a reception in 2016 (below)

London, she hosted a dinner for foreign leaders in the Picture Gallery of the palace, where the President of Ghana raised a moving toast in her honour.

Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo said: "It falls upon me to express the depth of our collective regret that she will no longer automatically be present at our proceedings.

"The organisation will undoubtedly be all the poorer for it. We will miss her inspiring presence, her calm, her steadiness and, above all, her great love and belief in the higher purpose of this Commonwealth of nations in its capacity to be a force for good."

He praised "Her Majesty's legendary ability to put you at ease" as well as her "lightness, her style and the sheer joy with which she carries out her duties".

"It is my fervent hope that the deep love she has shown for this association will continue to light the way for all of us," he said.

"She will always be an icon of the Commonwealth."





# THE QUEEN IN HER 90s

*Even in her most advanced years, tradition and continuity were this busy monarch's watchwords*



**T**he Queen embraced life in her 90s with the same vim, vigour and commitment she'd shown throughout her life. She continued with her red dispatch boxes and affairs of state, public engagements and family gatherings, remaining fit and healthy by riding her horses and walking her beloved corgis.

Her energy, work ethic and ability to tirelessly engage in activities that most people her age wouldn't even attempt was clearly a source of pride for the Queen. In fact in 2021, aged 95, she "politely but firmly" declined an Oldie of the Year Award from *The Oldie* magazine, believing that she didn't meet the criteria and explaining: "You are only as old as you feel."

Her Majesty no longer traversed the globe – but having travelled around the world 42 times visiting more than 120 countries during her reign, her

famed diplomatic skills had been put to good use. Even after her royal consort and husband the Duke of Edinburgh retired in August 2017, she continued with her engagements, increasingly joined by family members.

## LONG TO REIGN OVER US

The nation celebrated the official birthday of our 90-year-old, longest-reigning monarch in June 2016 with a 10,000-strong street party, with guests representing the 600 charities and organisations of which the Queen was patron gathered for the Patron's Lunch in The Mall. The road to Buckingham Palace was lined with picnic tables as, undeterred by the rain, revellers kept warm by drinking tea and huddling under plastic ponchos. On cue, as the royal cavalcade left Buckingham Palace the sun started to shine.

The crowds burst into a roar of cheers as

Embarking on her tenth decade in style, the Queen leads the royal cavalcade with the Duke of Edinburgh, followed by the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge and Prince Harry. Prince William later paid tribute to his grandmother's "relentless energy". Prince Philip also accompanies her (above left) at the service to mark her 90th birthday at St Paul's Cathedral



**'Granny, thank you  
for everything you  
have done. We  
could not wish you  
a happier birthday'  
The Duke of  
Cambridge**







In front of a floral display honouring her milestone birthday at RHS Chelsea Flower Show in May 2016 (above); and a poignant day for the monarch as her husband Prince Philip attends the Captain General's Parade at Buckingham Palace as his final solo public engagement in August 2017 (below)



the Queen – radiant in a fuchsia coat – and the Duke of Edinburgh emerged from the palace in their customised open-top Range Rover, or QueenMobile, as it was dubbed. Taking to her feet, the Queen smiled and waved to the crowds as the car made its way down The Mall to stop in front of Admiralty Arch, where a special stage had been built, from which Prince William made a speech,

Joining other royal family members as he paid tribute to his grandmother's "relentless energy" and "sharp wit", he said: "I hope you won't mind if I say a personal thank you to the Queen and to do so on behalf of all her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Granny, thank you for everything you have done for your family. We could not wish you a happier birthday."

The day ended at the Victoria Memorial, where the royal party enjoyed a parade chronicling the Queen's six decades on the throne.

Two months previously, on the day of her





**'I've seen one coronation and been the recipient in the other'**

The Queen sits for a portrait with her three heirs – two-year-old Prince George rising to the occasion on blocks – for a Royal Mail stamp sheet to mark her 90th birthday in April 2016; and a glimpse of her playful side the following month (below), in a video with grandson Prince Harry for his Invictus Games

actual birthday in April, Her Majesty was again greeted by large crowds as she walked through her beloved Windsor, serenaded by an affectionate chorus of “Happy Birthday, dear Queenie”, and was presented with an official birthday cake by *Great British Bake Off* winner Nadiya Hussain. Later that evening, the just-turned nonagenarian, who had not expected a fuss – “I thought it was all going to happen in June” she told staff – was thrown a lavish black-tie dinner party by Prince Charles with her children, grandchildren and friends making up the 71 guests.

#### **FAMILY FIRST**

With a reign characterised by consistency and reliability, the Queen was keen to show the continuity and stability in the line of succession throughout this decade. Throughout her 90th birthday celebrations, the Queen made it clear that she didn't want to stand in the spotlight alone. Among the series of touching family photographs that were released around ▶







**'She puts family  
very much  
alongside duty  
and role'**



In TV special *The Coronation*, shown in 2018 to mark the 65th anniversary of her ascension to the throne (above); and gracing the front row at London Fashion Week the same year, with *Vogue* editor in chief Anna Wintour (left)

**'She's done it all, she's  
been there and done it  
for 90-odd years'**

this time was one of the stately matriarch sitting for a portrait taken with her generations of heirs, the three future Kings.

The photograph, commissioned by the Royal Mail for use on a set of stamps, depicts a family at ease as Her Majesty, the Prince of Wales, the Duke of Cambridge and Prince George beam for the camera at Buckingham Palace.

It was released just as Prince William spoke of how important family is to the monarch – something that would become clear in the wake of her husband's retirement from public duties in 2017.

In a series of TV interviews before his grandmother's big day, William said: "She puts family very much alongside her duty and her role and it's what really makes her tick.

"She's always on hand to guide and to be there for support and advice. She's done it all, she's been there and done it for 90-odd years

pretty much." Even into her 90s, the Queen's sense of humour was often on display, along with her sense of duty. In May 2016, she and her grandson Prince Harry showed they were good sports when they took part in a mock face-off with then US President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle to promote the Prince's Invictus Games.

#### **A NEW ERA**

Two years later, the Queen welcomed Prince Harry's new wife Meghan into the family and gave a masterclass in royal duty when she and the new Duchess of Sussex carried out a day of engagements together in Cheshire. As they laughed and chatted together, the pair proved a winning double act and in a sign of affection that the head of the family clearly had for her, the Duchess wore a personal gift from the Queen: a pair of pearl and diamond earrings.





Enjoying a laugh with the Duchess of Sussex on their joint day of engagements in Cheshire in 2018; and surrounded by family portraits – showing how important they are to her – in her annual Christmas Broadcast (below)

Her Majesty's enthusiasm for trying new experiences was evident again when, at almost 92 years old, she sat in the front row next to *Vogue's* editor in chief Anna Wintour for designer Richard Quinn's autumn-winter 2018 collection. Stylish in a duck-egg blue suit accessorised with Swarovski crystals, the Queen looked delighted as she watched the parade of models, some of them wearing patterned headscarves in what the British designer described as his "tongue-in-cheek take on Balmoral".

She, in turn, presented him with the inaugural Queen Elizabeth II Award for British Design while Caroline Rush, chief executive of the British Fashion Council, praised the monarch for having embraced fashion throughout her reign, "using its power and diplomacy to communicate understanding between cultures and nations". ▶







**'One can't help but feel that, for those of us of a certain generation, we can take great pleasure in proving age is no barrier to being a positive influence'**

Bright yellow for the official opening of the London Underground line named in her honour in May 2022 (above); and with Sir David Attenborough the same year, honouring him for his environmental work (below). She later declined an Oldie of the Year award, saying: "You are only as old as you feel"



A couple of months before her fashion show debut, in January 2018, the Queen made another surprise appearance – this time in BBC documentary *The Coronation*, marking the 65th anniversary of her investiture and exploring the history of the Crown Jewels. "I've seen one coronation and been the recipient in the other, which is pretty remarkable," said Her Majesty, recalling her own ceremony in June 1953 and that of her father George VI in 1937.

Speaking of her coronation gown, which was embroidered in silk with pearls, and gold and silver bullion thread, she said: "Well, I remember one moment when I was going against the pile of the carpet and I couldn't move at all... They hadn't thought of that."

She also recalled riding in a golden carriage from Buckingham Palace to the abbey, describing the journey as "horrible – it's only sprung on leather, not very comfortable".

In a more traditional TV appearance that December, the Queen alluded to her age in her Christmas Day Message: "Some cultures believe a long life brings wisdom. I'd like to think so."

And there were no signs of her flagging when, one year later in December 2019, she was pictured with Prince Charles, Prince William





Continuity and tradition: Mixing up a Christmas treat with her heirs; and attending the State Opening of Parliament in May 2021 (below), just a month after the death of her beloved husband

and Prince George mixing Christmas puddings.

But, as ever, it was the Queen's unwavering commitment to put duty before any personal upheaval that remained a constant throughout her 90s.

Aged 93, she awarded her friend Sir David Attenborough – born just weeks apart in 1926 – with the Chatham House Prize for his work highlighting ocean plastic pollution.

She told him: "This award recognises your many talents and one can't help but feel that, for those of us of a certain generation, we can take great pleasure in proving age is no barrier to being a positive influence."

And just one month after saying a final farewell to the Duke of Edinburgh in April 2021, it was business as usual for the Queen as she presided over the State Opening of Parliament, one of her most important public duties in the royal calendar.

"If you live this sort of life," the Queen said in a 40th anniversary documentary, *Elizabeth R*, in 1992, "you live very much by tradition and continuity."

And it was her embodiment of continuity, even in her advanced years, which made her such an admired and cherished monarch. **H**







The Queen addresses the UK and the Commonwealth in a rare televised message, displayed above almost-deserted London streets (below). "Our streets are not empty, they are filled with the love and the care that we have for each other," she would say later

# LEADING THE NATION

*As we faced the crisis of Covid-19, the Queen remained a true inspiration*

**A**s the UK was plunged into the turmoil of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Queen became more of a symbol of unity than ever before, voicing the hopes and fears of a nation suddenly put into lockdown.

In a message shared on 19 March 2020, as she returned to Windsor to isolate with the Duke of Edinburgh, the monarch urged people to do their bit, saying:

"Many of us will need to find new ways of staying in touch with each other and making sure that loved ones are safe. I am certain we are up to that challenge. You can be assured that my family and I stand ready to play our part."

And the following month, as both her son the Prince of Wales and Prime Minister Boris Johnson recovered from the illness, she made a rare televised address from the White Drawing Room, offering

words of comfort. "I hope in the years to come, everyone will be able to take pride in how they responded to this challenge and those who come after us will say the Britons of this generation were as strong as any, that the attributes of self-discipline, of quiet good-humoured resolve and of fellow-feeling still characterise this country. The pride in who we are is not a part of our past; it defines our present and our future."

care that we have for each other. And when I look at our country today, and see what we are willing to do to protect and support one another, I say with pride that we are still a nation those brave soldiers, sailors and airmen would recognise and admire."

Along with Prince Philip, the Queen spent most of the year at Windsor, attended to by a select group of staff dubbed "HMS Bubble". She kept busy by riding her beloved fell pony Balmoral Fern in Windsor Home Park and walking her pet dogs in the East Terrace Garden. She also continued her duties, working on her red boxes, holding her weekly audience with the Prime Minister by telephone and mastering the art of the video call to speak to diplomats, charities and military organisations.

There were joyful moments, too, including Prince Philip's 99th birthday in June and the Queen's small-scale official birthday parade in the Castle's quadrangle, with the monarch tapping her foot to the music as a vastly reduced group of military musicians performed.

## ECHOES OF THE PAST

Six decades after she and her sister Princess Margaret made a radio address to wartime evacuees, the monarch evoked the spirit of the time, echoing the lyrics of Dame Vera Lynn's *We'll Meet Again*. She said: "While we may have more still to endure, better days will return. We will be with our friends again, we will be with our families again. We will meet again."

There was another address on the 75th anniversary of VE Day in May that year, when she said: "Our streets are not empty, they are filled with the love and the





## 'Better days will return. We will meet again'

One of the most uplifting moments, however, was when she knighted Captain Sir Tom Moore, the 100-year-old Second World War veteran who raised more than £33m for NHS charities by walking 100 lengths of his garden.

The Queen and the Duke were able to enjoy a last holiday together at Balmoral and Sandringham, before celebrating 73 years of marriage in November, during England's second lockdown.

### JOYFUL OCCASION

In a charming photograph, the royal couple were seen opening an anniversary card from their great-grandchildren Prince George, Princess Charlotte and Prince Louis. Getty Images royal photographer Chris Jackson later told us: "The Duke's face lit up as he opened it... At such a difficult time, when families were unable to meet in person, it was such a special, genuine moment."

November also saw the Queen continue to show exemplary leadership as she wore a mask for the first time in public on a visit to the grave of the Unknown Warrior in Westminster Abbey ahead of Remembrance Sunday. Then she and Prince Philip spent what turned out to be his last Christmas together at Windsor, separated from her family.

Her traditional Christmas message that year offered her prayers to those whose festive wish was "a simple hug or a squeeze of the hand", with the monarch saying: "Remarkably, a year that has necessarily kept people apart has, in many ways, brought us closer."

By January, she and the Duke were announcing they had been vaccinated, a month after the roll-out began. "It didn't hurt at all," she said, as she urged everyone to "think about other people rather than themselves".

As the nation began to return to normal, the Queen continued to provide reassurance to all – and led the nation once more as she recognised the health professionals who steered us through the outbreak, awarding the George Cross to the NHS in July 2021. **H**



The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh mark his 99th birthday at Windsor Castle (above) and (right) delight at an anniversary card from their great-grandchildren. Knighting Captain Sir Tom Moore (below)





# DEATH OF HER DUKE

*Distanced from her family, this sombre milestone was the Queen's saddest hour*







The Queen cuts a solitary figure (far left) in St George's Chapel in Windsor Castle, other members of her family kept socially distanced in the choir stalls by pandemic regulations. Before the funeral Her Majesty released this poignant portrait (inset above left)

Perhaps the single most touching image from the ceremonial funeral of the Duke of Edinburgh on 17 April 2021 was that of the Queen sitting socially distanced from her family in the historic St George's Chapel at Windsor Castle, a solitary figure in mourning for her husband.

Married for seven decades, she had lost the man she called her "strength and stay".

The night before he died, aged 99, on 9 April 2021, Prince Philip had enjoyed a last dinner with his wife in their private apartments at Windsor Castle. It is where the couple had been self-isolating for much of the past year during lockdown, being attended to by a reduced staff dubbed "HMS Bubble" and spending more time together than they had done in years.

The following day he had risen, showered and dressed, but passed away peacefully shortly after. "It was so gentle," said the Countess of Wessex of her father-in-law's death. "It was just like somebody took him by the hand and off he went. Very, very peaceful."

On the eve of his funeral the Queen had released her favourite personal photo with Prince Philip – taken by Sophie in 2003 – of the couple relaxing on the grass at the Coyles of Muick, a beauty spot in Aberdeenshire.

For the Queen, her husband's death had "left a huge void in her life", said her son the Duke of York. "We have lost the grandfather of the nation, and I feel very sorry and supportive of my mother who is feeling it, I think, more than anybody else."

#### RECORD BREAKER

After 73 years of marriage and just two months away from his 100th birthday, Prince Philip had become the longest-serving consort in British history and the oldest serving partner of a reigning monarch. Before bowing out of public life in August 2017, the former naval officer had carried out a staggering 22,219 solo engagements since the Queen's accession to the throne in 1952.

But despite a life dedicated to public service, he was determined there should be minimal fuss for his funeral. Tailored to his

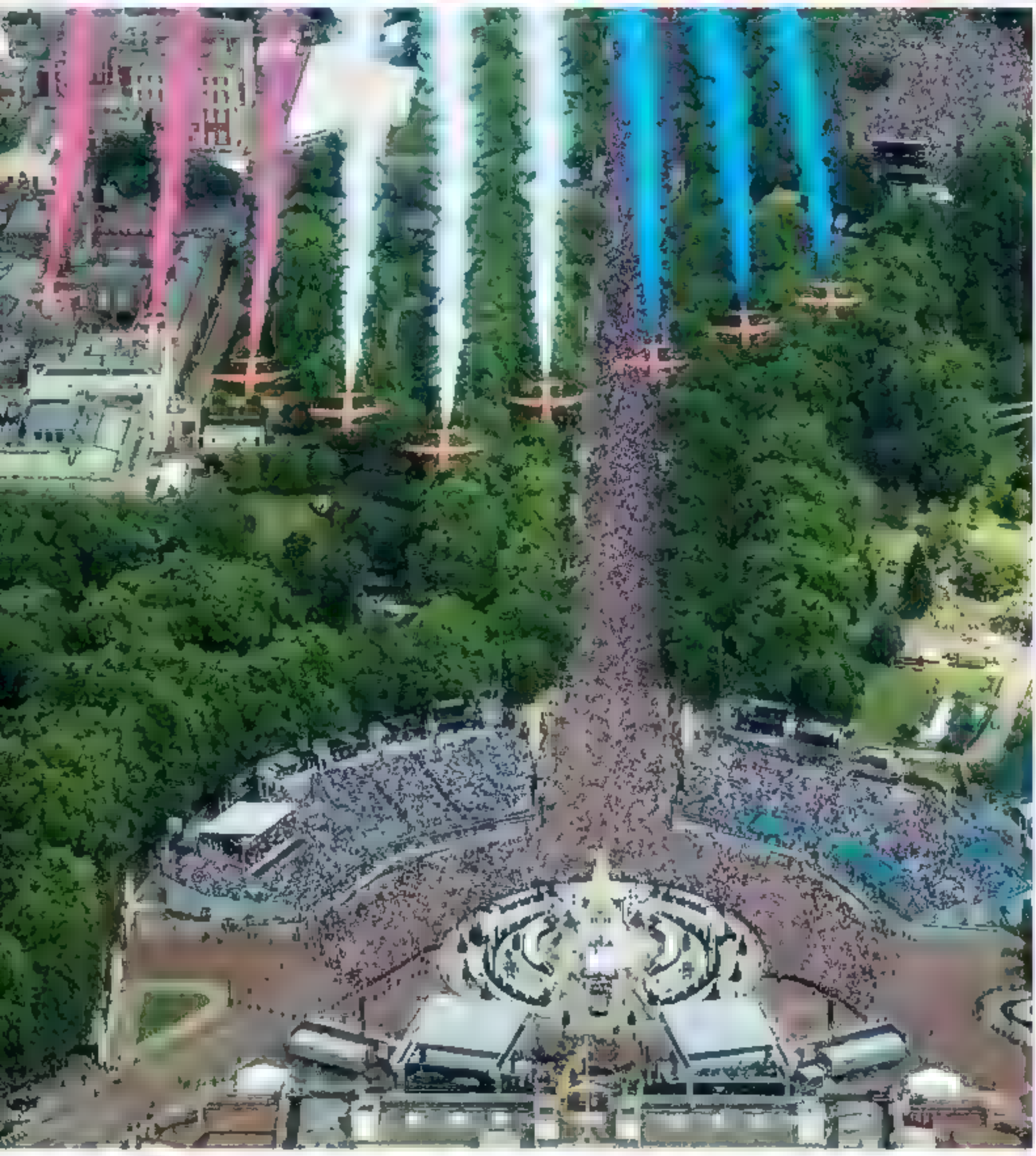
instructions and meticulous plans but necessarily adapted for prevailing Covid restrictions, there was no lying in state and a congregation of only 30 mourners, including his children, grandchildren and three of his close German relatives.

After a moving procession through the castle grounds, the service in St George's Chapel – which was led by the Dean of Windsor, the Rt Rev. David Conner, who paid tribute to the Duke's "kindness, humour and humanity", and the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Rev. Justin Welby – featured music and readings that had been chosen by Prince Philip to reflect his naval career, his passion for engineering and his dedication to his wife.

After the funeral, the Duke was privately interred in the Royal Vault of St George's Chapel. But that was not to be his final resting place. With the Queen's death he will be finally laid to rest in the gothic church's King George VI memorial chapel.

In death, as for more than seven decades in his most distinguished and eventful life, he is ever by her side.





# THE PLATINUM JUBILEE

*How the spectacular celebrations to mark 70 years of the Queen's reign united the country*

**I**n what would prove to be her public swansong – and some of the final major high-profile appearances of her life – the Queen enjoyed four days of spectacular celebrations in June 2022 to mark her Platinum Jubilee, with her beloved family at her side.

Having made history as the first British monarch to reach the milestone of 70 years as sovereign, Her Majesty was determined to take part in the festivities, even if mobility issues meant she could not attend them all.

On the eve of the specially extended weekend of celebrations, a commemorative portrait by Ranald Mackechnie was unveiled showing the Queen – wearing an elegant blue Angela Kelly coat and dress, embellished with a pearl and diamanté trim – sitting in the Victoria Vestibule inside Windsor Castle. It was

shared with an official message, in which she said: “I know that many happy memories will be created at these festive occasions,” adding that it would be “an opportunity to reflect on all that has been achieved during the last 70 years, as we look to the future with confidence and enthusiasm”.

Day one of the unprecedented celebrations saw the first full return of Trooping the Colour – the traditional celebration of the sovereign's official birthday – since before the Covid-19 pandemic. In the same pale-blue Angela Kelly outfit worn for her portrait, the Queen took to the balcony with senior working members of her family, plus the Cambridge and Wessex children, to watch a dazzling flypast of military aircraft, ending with the red, white and blue smoke trails of the Red Arrows.

Wearing sunglasses in the bright sunshine,

the Queen looked thrilled by the display, leaning on her walking stick at one point to discuss it with an animated Prince Louis.

## LIGHT FANTASTIC

Later, the UK and Commonwealth nations saw more than 3,000 beacons lit up, with Her Majesty ceremonially “lighting” a Tree of Trees sculpture outside Buckingham Palace from the quadrangle at Windsor Castle.

She touched a specially commissioned Commonwealth of Nations Globe, triggering a sequence of lights that appeared to illuminate the 69ft-tall sculpture by Thomas Heatherwick outside her London residence, watched by grandson the Duke of Cambridge.

After a long first day, the monarch opted “with great reluctance” not to join her family the following morning, after



**'An opportunity  
to reflect on all  
that has been  
achieved during  
the last 70 years'**



Prince Louis shares a moment with great-granny – stealing the show (below) as the Red Arrows fly over Buckingham Palace (left)



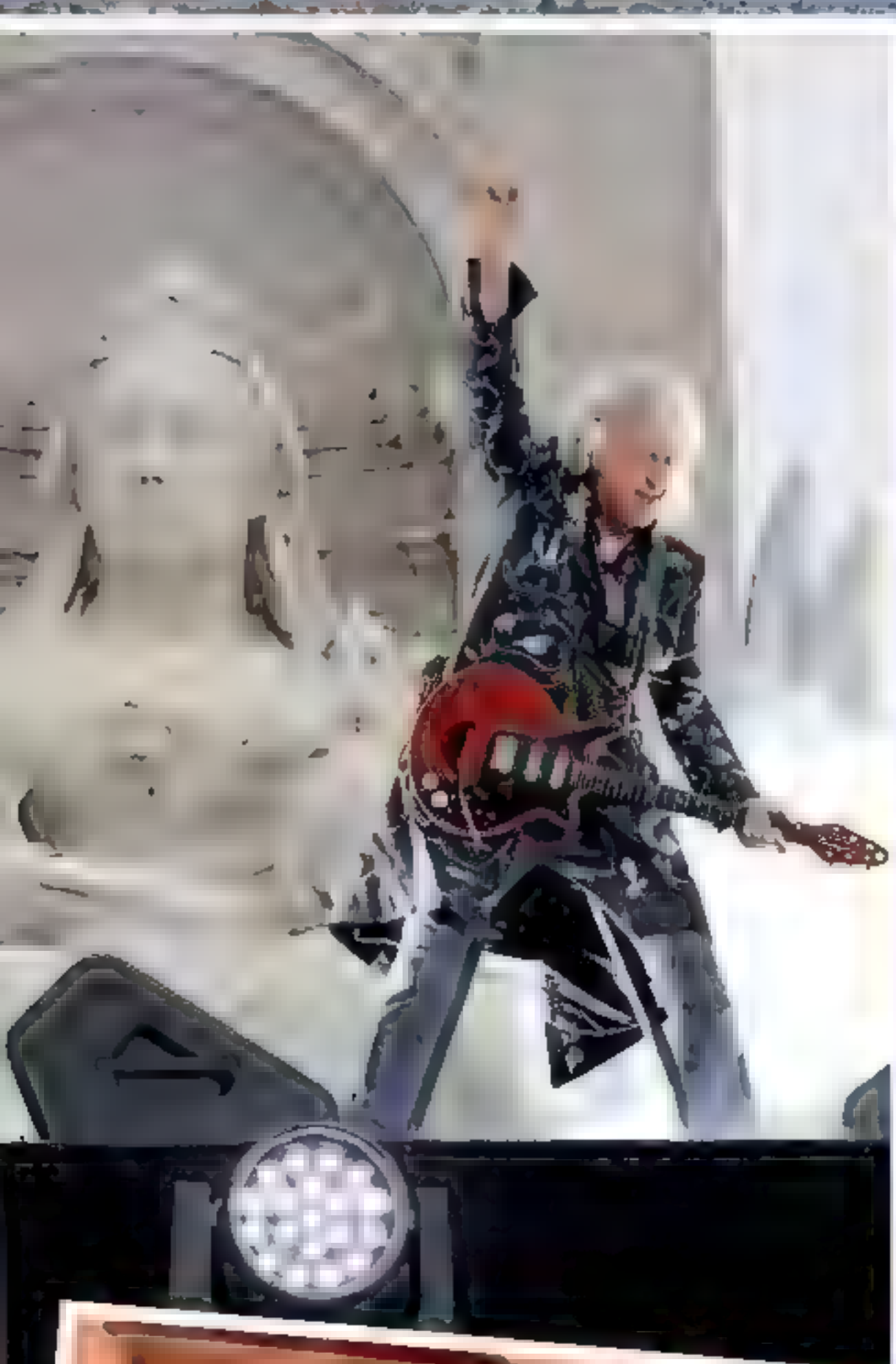
The official Platinum Jubilee portrait shows the Queen wearing an elegant 133 blue Angela Kelly coat and dress, embellished with a pearl and diamanté trim, while sitting in the Victoria Vestibule inside Windsor Castle (above). The monarch and her family watch the flypast with delight (top)



**'Thank you, for continuing to be faithful  
to the pledges you made 70 years ago'**



Her Majesty is joined by the Duchess of Cornwall, the Prince of Wales, the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge and their children Prince George, Princess Charlotte and Louis on the balcony of Buckingham Palace following the Platinum Pageant on the last day of celebrations



experiencing "some discomfort" on the journey between Windsor and London. Instead, it was Prince Charles and Camilla who led the royal family on day two at a service of thanksgiving at St Paul's Cathedral, which Her Majesty watched from the comfort of the castle.

According to her granddaughter Zara Tindall, it was from there that she also watched one of her favourite annual events, the Epsom Derby, on the third day, saying: "She'll just be sat on the sofa watching the TV.

She'll be in her comfy clothes." Later, the Queen remained at the forefront of the celebrations for the

Platinum Party at the Palace, showing her sense of fun as she appeared on video in a surprise sketch with Paddington Bear.

#### TEA WITH PADDINGTON

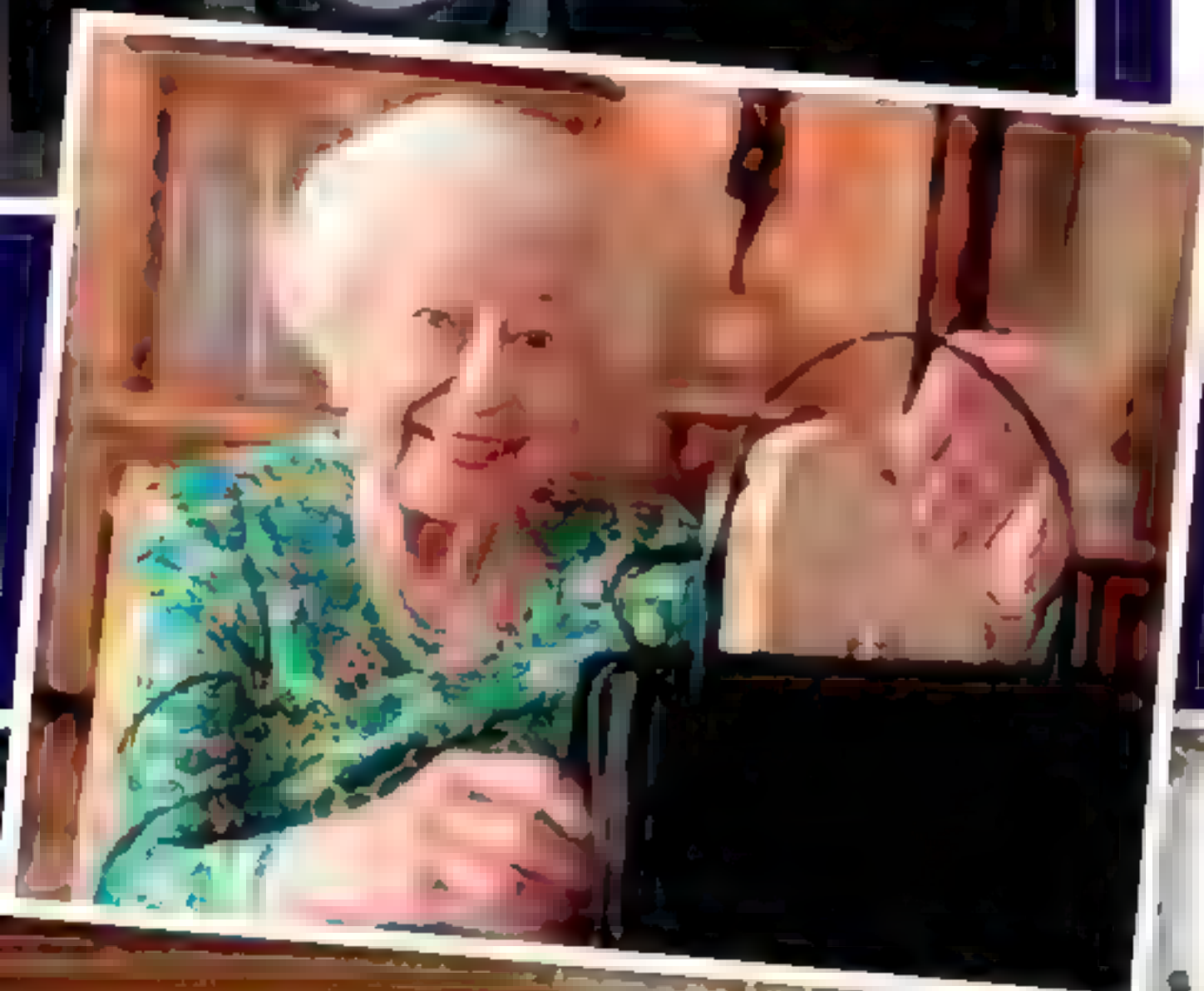
To the delight of viewers including her great-grandchildren Prince George and Princess Charlotte, she was seen having tea with the accident-prone bear and finally revealing what she kept in her trusty Launer handbag: a marmalade sandwich "for later".

The unlikely duo then tapped out the rhythm of the Queen hit *We Will Rock You* with spoons on their china cups ahead of the party starting, which

saw Her Majesty's family singing and clapping along to the performances.

On the final day of celebrations, The Mall and Buckingham Palace were once more the focus as the Platinum Jubilee Pageant got under way.

The royal family watched in delight as the Gold State Coach, used by the Queen on her Coronation Day, led a procession of 42 military units and thousands of performers representing each of the seven decades of the Queen's reign. They were followed by Olympic champions on bicycles, Dames in Jaguars and double-decker London buses carrying more than 150 "national



A sketch starring the monarch and Paddington Bear is broadcast (below left and left), leading into Queen guitarist Brian May's performance under the gaze of Queen Victoria (above left). The celebration of her 70-year reign sees performers make their way down The Mall (below)







treasures" including Sir Cliff Richard, Kate Moss, Katherine Jenkins and Chris Eubank.

After a rendition of *Perfect* from Ed Sheeran, the Queen emerged onto the balcony of the palace, joined by her three heirs, along with the Duchesses of Cornwall and Cambridge, Princess Charlotte and Prince Louis. In what would prove to be her last appearance on the famous balcony, Her Majesty looked moved by the roar of the crowds as red, white and blue fireworks filled the air with coloured smoke.

As she said in her message of thanks: "While I may not have attended every event in person, my heart has been with you all; and I remain committed to serving you to the best of my ability, supported by my family."

And she added: "I hope this renewed sense of togetherness will be felt for many years to come."



**'I know many happy memories will be created at these festive occasions'**



The Queen is resplendent in green as she waves on the balcony at the pageant (above). "National treasures" Katherine Jenkins and Chris Eubank (below) are among stars riding on double decker buses in front of Buckingham Palace during the festivities





# TRUE TO THE END

*Our faithful Queen continued to honour her duties in her final days*



The final picture of the Queen, taken in the drawing room of her beloved Scottish summer residence, Balmoral Castle, as she holds an audience with new Prime Minister Liz Truss (below)



**T**he Queen continued to work right up until her death, carrying out her last official duty two days before she passed away.

She welcomed the 15th Prime Minister of her reign, Liz Truss, to her Scottish home, and invited her to form a new Government a day after being announced as the new leader of the Conservative Party.

Earlier, the monarch had held an audience with outgoing PM Boris Johnson, during which she accepted his resignation.

Both audiences took place at Balmoral for the first time in the Queen's reign, for her "comfort".

The Rt Rev. Dr Iain Greenshields, moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, spoke after her death about enjoying

Saturday night dinner and Sunday lunch with Her Majesty, the Prince of Wales and the Princess Royal at the castle the weekend before she died, saying the Queen was in fine spirits.

"It was a fantastic visit. Her memory was absolutely amazing and she was full of fun," he told a newspaper. "It came as a great shock to me when I heard she was gravely ill... She spoke very personally about her time there as a child. She was talking about her horses from the past, naming them from 40 years ago, people's names and places. She was quite remarkable."

In July, ahead of her summer break, Her Majesty had carried out a week of royal duties in Scotland as part of Holyrood Week, joined by family including the Prince of Wales, the Duke of Cambridge and the Countess of Wessex.





**'She was in amazingly  
good form, full of fun'  
Rt Rev Dr Iain  
Greenshields**



In June, just over three weeks after her Platinum Jubilee celebrations, the Queen carries out royal duties in Scotland as part of Holyrood Week (left)



# THE NEWS BREAKS

*From growing concern for Her Majesty's health to the announcement of her death, her family and the nation were united in shock and grief*



The Royal Family  
@RoyalFamily

The Queen died peacefully at Balmoral this afternoon.

The King and The Queen Consort will remain at Balmoral this evening and will return to London tomorrow.



The news the world had been dreading arrived at 6.30pm on Thursday 8 September in a simple 26-word statement from Buckingham Palace.

"The Queen died peacefully at Balmoral this afternoon," the Palace announced. "The King and the Queen Consort will remain at Balmoral this evening and will return to London tomorrow."

This was followed by a touching statement from the new King, Charles III, who said: "The death of my beloved mother, Her Majesty The Queen, is a moment of the greatest sadness for me and all members of my family.

"We mourn profoundly the passing of a cherished Sovereign and a much-loved Mother.

"I know her loss will be deeply felt throughout the country, the Realms and the



# 'We mourn profoundly the passing of a cherished sovereign and a much-loved mother' King Charles III



Balmoral Castle's flag flies at full mast before being lowered to half mast following the news of Her Majesty's death, which is announced on the royal family's Twitter account (inset left). King Charles (right, with the Queen Consort) releases a statement about this "moment of the greatest sadness" (below right)

Commonwealth, and by countless people around the world.

"During this period of mourning and change, my family and I will be comforted and sustained by our knowledge of the respect and deep affection in which The Queen was so widely held."

## A NATION IN MOURNING

The focal points of the nation's mourning were the royal palaces, which have been the backdrop to so many special moments for Her Majesty throughout her reign.

In a mass outpouring of emotion, well-wishers young and old were in tears as they laid floral tributes at the gates of royal residences all over the country, including at Windsor Castle, Buckingham Palace, the Palace of Holyroodhouse in Edinburgh, the Norwich Gates to Sandringham House on the Queen's Norfolk estate, and at Balmoral itself.

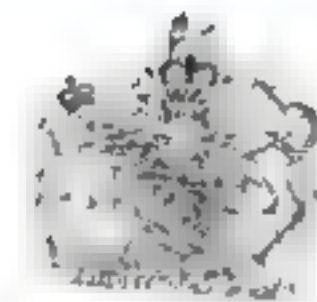
A double rainbow stretched over the tens of thousands of

mourners who had congregated outside Buckingham Palace on Thursday evening, where the official notice of the Queen's death was pinned to the railings.

After the announcement, those who had gathered broke into a heartfelt rendition of the national anthem, singing the poignant new lyrics: "God Save the King." Meanwhile, at the gates of Windsor Castle, where the Queen had been based for the past two years, another rainbow appeared over the throngs of people paying their respects, who fell silent in sombre reflection.

A steady stream of people continued to visit the royal residences in the days after the Queen's death.

All four of Her Majesty's children had rushed to their mother's home in Scotland, where she had been staying since 21 July, after royal doctors revealed at



BUCKINGHAM PALACE

## A STATEMENT FROM HIS MAJESTY THE KING AT THE TIME OF THE QUEEN'S DEATH

The death of my beloved Mother, Her Majesty The Queen, is a moment of the greatest sadness for me and all members of my family.

We mourn profoundly the passing of a cherished Sovereign and a much-loved Mother. I know her loss will be deeply felt throughout the country, the Realms and the Commonwealth, and by countless people around the world.

During this period of mourning and change, my family and I will be comforted and sustained by our knowledge of the respect and deep affection in which The Queen was so widely held.

Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup> September 2022



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**'She was the  
very spirit of  
Great Britain'  
Prime Minister  
Liz Truss**

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lunchtime on 8 September that they were concerned for the monarch's health.

The Highlands estate is, according to Princess Eugenie, "the most beautiful place on earth", where "Granny is the most happy".

First to arrive were the Prince of Wales, who became King Charles III on his mother's death, and the Princess Royal. Both were already in Scotland; Charles was nearby at his estate, Birkhall, with the Duchess of Cornwall – now Queen Consort – while Anne was north of the border for official engagements.

They were joined later by the Duke of York, the Earl and Countess of Wessex, and the Dukes of Cambridge and Sussex.

#### **GROWING CONCERN**

The first signs that something was amiss had come in the House of Commons soon after midday, when Cabinet member Nadhim Zahawi was seen entering the chamber, then sitting down next to Prime Minister Liz Truss to speak to her, while Labour leader Sir Keir Starmer was handed a note by his deputy, Angela Rayner.

Then, shortly after 12.30pm, Buckingham Palace, which rarely comments on the health of the royal family, issued a statement saying: "Following further evaluation this morning, the Queen's doctors are concerned for Her Majesty's health and have recommended she remain under medical supervision. The Queen remains comfortable and at Balmoral."

The official notice of the Queen's death is hung on the gates of Buckingham Palace (left), as is tradition. As shocked crowds gather in shared grief, an ethereal double rainbow appears over the Queen Victoria Memorial outside the Palace (above). At the same time, a rainbow is seen arching over Windsor Castle (below), the Queen's primary residence, where the Union flag flies at half-mast







As the Changing of the Guard was cancelled, members of the royal family quickly mobilised. Prince William – now the Prince of Wales – headed to RAF Northolt with Prince Andrew, Prince Edward and Sophie, and boarded a flight to Aberdeen Airport, where they arrived at 4pm and were met by Range Rovers to take them to Balmoral.

Prince Harry, who had been due to attend the WellChild Awards in London that evening, instead flew to Scotland, but he was still in the air when the announcement was made of his grandmother's death. He landed at 6.45pm and was driven into Balmoral just before 8pm.

The Duchess of Cambridge, now the Princess of Wales, who had dropped her three children at their new school in Berkshire that morning, stayed in Windsor so she could be home when they returned. The Duchess of Sussex, originally expected to travel with

Harry, also stayed in Windsor, at Frogmore Cottage.

#### A NEW ERA

Meanwhile, the new PM, who had met the Queen just two days earlier at Balmoral when she was formally asked to take office, stepped outside 10 Downing Street to deliver her own tribute.

"The death of Her Majesty the Queen is a huge shock to the

nation and to the world," she said. "Queen Elizabeth II was the rock on which modern Britain was built. We are now a thriving, dynamic nation. Through thick and thin, Queen Elizabeth II provided us with the stability and the strength that we needed.

"She was the very spirit of Great Britain. That spirit will endure."

Calling Her Majesty "a personal inspiration to me and to many

Britons", she urged the nation to support her successor, Charles.

"We offer him our loyalty and devotion, just as his mother devoted so much to so many for so long. And with the passing of the second Elizabethan age, we usher in a new era in the magnificent history of our great country – exactly as Her Majesty would have wished – by saying the words: 'God save the King.'" **H**

As news of the Queen's death reaches the nation, crowds of mourners gather outside Buckingham Palace (above), finding comfort in solidarity. Bouquets of flowers, cards and notes are laid outside the palace gates (right), and a Death Gun Salute near the Tower of London (left) marks her passing





# ROYALS PAY TRIBUTE

*From her earliest years  
through to her final days,  
our Queen was devoted  
to her people*

The King and  
Queen Consort  
appreciatively  
examine floral  
tributes during a  
walkabout at  
Buckingham Palace  
and (below) meet  
well-wishers, with  
one kissing His  
Majesty's hand





There was  
applause and a  
rousing cry of  
"God bless  
the King!"



Cameras focus on our  
new monarch (above)  
as he stops to reflect  
outside the gates of the  
London royal residence

**T**he King made his first public appearance as monarch with an impromptu walkabout at Buckingham Palace the day after the Queen's death.

Joined by his Queen Consort, he arrived at his new official residence, where they both shook hands with many of the hundreds of mourners gathered outside.

There was applause and a rousing cry of "God bless the King!" while some openly wept and offered their condolences.

"We have wonderful memories," the monarch told well-wishers before he and his wife, who drew a cheer of "we love you, Camilla", walked the length of the palace forecourt to view a sea of floral tributes.

#### **HISTORIC MOMENT**

After stopping to reflect on a flag bearing a picture of the King's mother, the royal couple walked through the wrought-iron gates and into the palace for the first time as King and Queen Consort; a historic moment marked by

a bugler salute from No. 7 Company of the Coldstream Guards.

The following day, there were more touching tributes at Windsor Castle and Balmoral, where members of the family gathered in their grief amid outpourings of public affection.

Ripples of excitement and surprise swept through the legion of royal fans assembled at Windsor's Long Walk as the new Prince and Princess of Wales and Duke and Duchess of Sussex emerged from the castle's ►

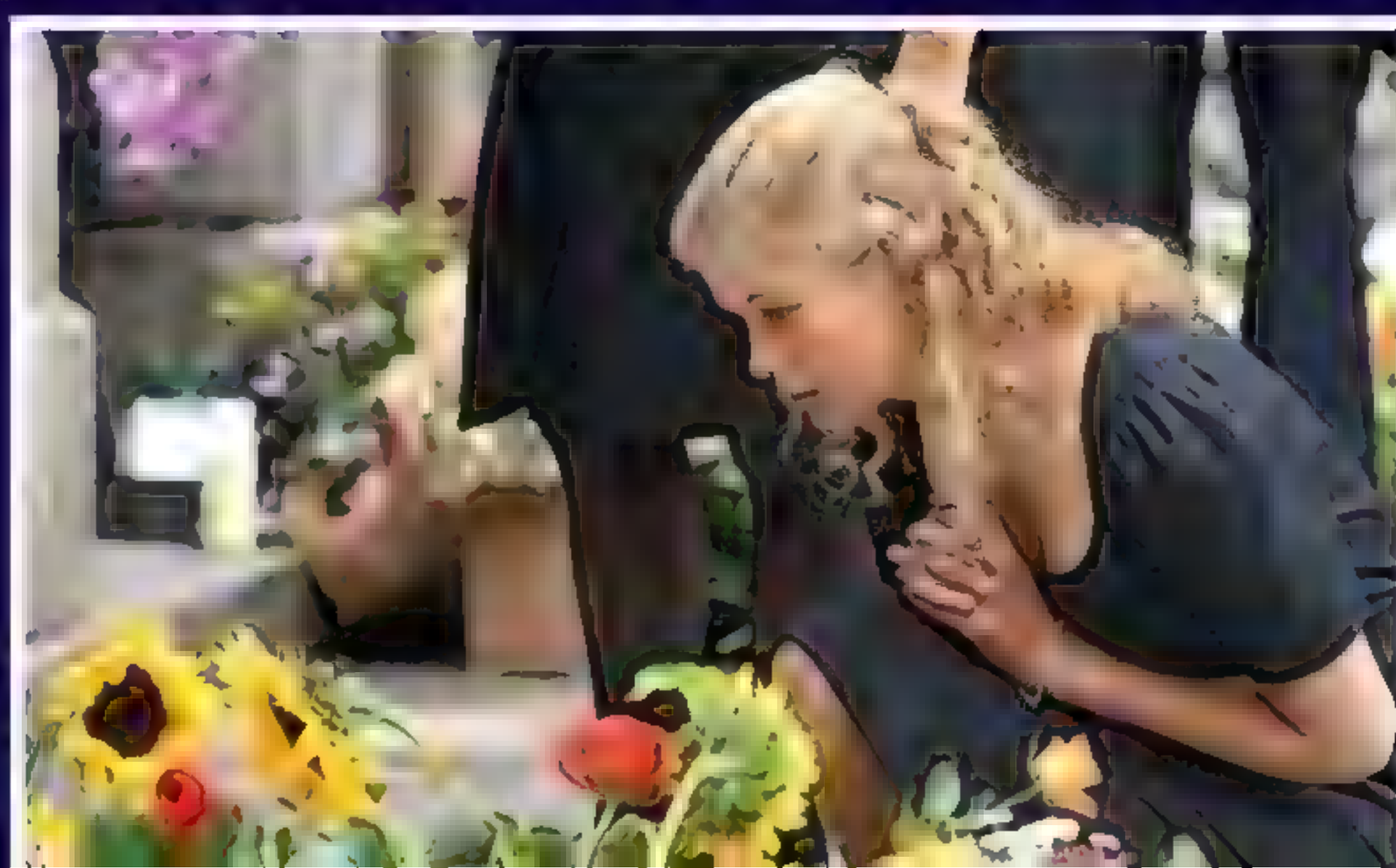




The Duke of York bends down to inspect flowers laid at Balmoral, joined by (from left) the Earl of Wessex, the Princess Royal, Vice Admiral Sir Tim Laurence, Peter Phillips and Zara Tindall, Princesses Eugenie and Beatrice and the Countess of Wessex



Zara looks visibly upset (left) while her cousins Eugenie and Beatrice (above) and Lady Louise (below) read tributes



Cambridge Gate to inspect the mountain of colourful bouquets outside. It was the first time the couples, once dubbed the “Fab Four”, had appeared in public together since Commonwealth Day in 2020 and, as they began greeting the crowds on a 40-minute walkabout, there were gasps and heartfelt cheers.

Dressed in sombre black, they chatted to well-wishers and placed flowers on their behalf on the ever-growing rows of floral tributes, which looked vibrant in the late afternoon sunshine.

Among the blooms were handwritten messages and drawings – including a corgi wearing a crown. Another illustration featured the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh holding hands, with the accompanying words: “We will miss your service and infectious smile, but now it’s time to walk with your beloved on your final journey. RIP Lilibet.”

There were Paddington Bears, too – a nod to the famous marmalade-and-tea sketch during the Platinum Jubilee



As they began greeting the crowds,  
there were gasps and heartfelt cheers



The “Fab Four” reunite during a walkabout in Windsor, with the Duke and Duchess of Sussex holding hands and touching affectionately (below) throughout the day

celebrations – and one was handed to Prince William by a royal fan. As Kate chatted to onlookers, she touchingly shared her youngest Prince Louis’s reaction to the Queen’s death – “At least Gan-Gan is with Great-grandpa now.”

There was more emotional interaction when Meghan granted 14-year-old Amelka Zak’s wish after she asked for a hug. Describing the moment as “amazing”, the thrilled teen said later: “I’m still shaking.”

#### HEIR’S SUPPORT

The royal couples’ reunion follows the now heir to the throne’s public statement on the death of his grandmother. “I will honour her memory by supporting my father, the King, in every way I can,” he said.

Royal family members – including the Princess Royal and husband Vice Admiral Sir Tim Laurence, Princess Anne’s children Peter Phillips and Zara Tindall, the Duke of York and his daughters Princesses Beatrice and Eugenie, and the Earl and Countess of Wessex and their daughter Lady Louise

Windsor – also gathered to see the tributes laid outside the Queen’s beloved Balmoral.

After a service at Crathie Kirk, Zara appeared emotional and was later seen comforting her cousin Eugenie, while 18-year-old Lady Louise, who recently spent

weekends with her grandmother on the Highlands estate, held her mother Sophie’s hand as they walked towards the crowd.

Later, as they headed back to the castle, they waved to supportive well-wishers, who broke into a round of applause. **H**



The Prince and Princess of Wales are joined by Harry and Meghan to view colourful bouquets







# DUTY CALLS

*King Charles III is proclaimed Britain's sovereign and addresses the nation for the first time to pay tribute to his 'darling Mama'*

**T**he King paid a poignant and deeply personal tribute to his "darling Mama" in a historic televised address to the nation the day after the Queen's death.

In his first public broadcast as monarch, His Majesty spoke of his "profound sorrow" at his mother's passing and promised to devote himself to "lifelong service" – just as she had.

"Throughout her life, Her Majesty the Queen – my beloved mother – was an inspiration and example to me and to all my family, and we owe her the most heartfelt debt any family can owe to their mother, for her love, affection, guidance, understanding and example," said the King. "Queen Elizabeth's was a life well lived, a promise with destiny kept, and she is mourned most deeply in her passing. That promise of lifelong service I renew to you all today."

Dressed in a sombre suit and black tie, and

with tears in his eyes, His Majesty spoke of his mother's "dedication and devotion as sovereign" and the sacrifices she had made for duty.

"The affection, admiration and respect she inspired became the hallmark of her reign," he said. "And, as every member of my family can testify, she combined these qualities with warmth, humour and an unerring ability always to see the best in people."

"I know that her death brings great sadness to so many of you, and I share that sense of loss, beyond measure, with you all."

## LEADING BY EXAMPLE

Urging the nation to "draw strength from the light of her example", the King continued: "On behalf of all my family, I can only offer the most sincere and heartfelt thanks for your condolences and support. They mean more to me than I can ever possibly express."

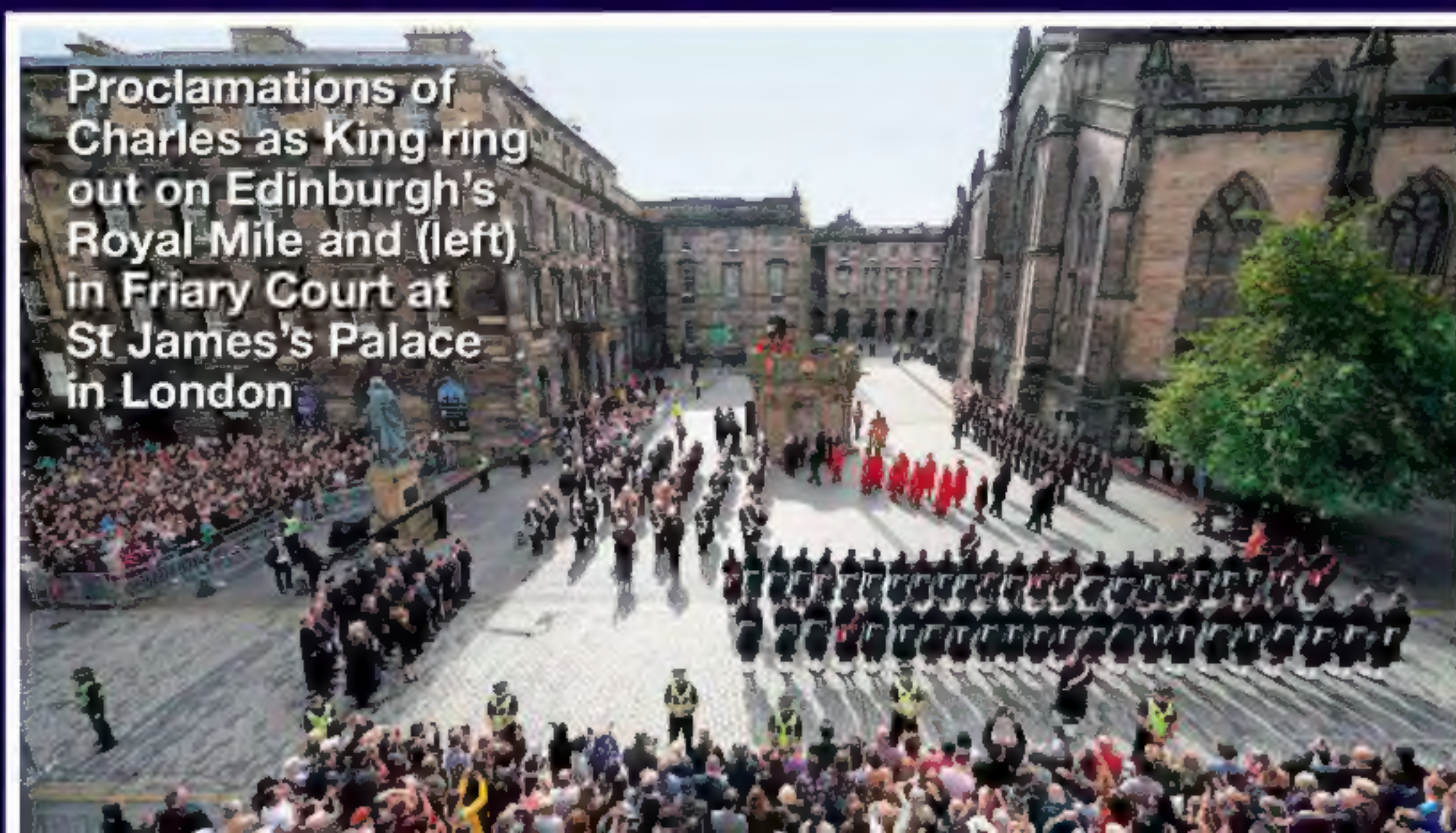
"And to my darling Mama, as you begin your last great journey to join my dear late Papa, I want simply to say this: thank you. Thank you for your love and devotion to our family, and to the family of nations you have served so diligently all these years."

Quoting Shakespeare's *Hamlet*, the King ended his speech with the words: "May flights of angels sing thee to thy rest."

Describing this "time of change for my family", he paid tribute to his "darling wife", Camilla – "my Queen Consort" – and used the speech to announce that his son and heir Prince William and wife Catherine would now be known as the Prince and Princess of Wales.

Not forgetting the Duke and Duchess of Sussex, he added: "I want also to express my love for Harry and Meghan as they continue to build their lives overseas."

The following day, the King was formally



Proclamations of Charles as King ring out on Edinburgh's Royal Mile and (left) in Friary Court at St James's Palace in London



# 'I shall strive to follow the inspiring example I have been set'

## The King

proclaimed monarch in a centuries-old ceremony in the historic surroundings of St James's Palace. He automatically became King when the late Queen died, but an Accession Council must be convened after the death of a sovereign.

Accompanied by the Queen Consort and the new Prince of Wales, he addressed the council – a group of more than 200 Privy Counsellors, including six former Prime Ministers and the Archbishops of Canterbury and York – in the State Rooms of the Tudor palace.

Speaking in the Throne Room, he began by discharging the "sorrowful duty" of announcing the Queen's death.

"My mother's reign was unequalled in its duration, its dedication and its devotion," he said. "Even as we grieve, we give thanks for this most faithful life. I am deeply aware of this great inheritance and of the duties and heavy responsibilities of sovereignty which have now passed to me.

"In taking up these responsibilities, I shall strive to follow the inspiring example I have been set in upholding constitutional government, and to seek the peace, harmony and prosperity of the peoples of these islands and of the Commonwealth realms and territories throughout the world."

The King ended by saying he would "pray for the guidance and help of Almighty God". The monarch allowed cameras inside the historic event for the first time.

### GOD SAVE THE KING

After the ceremony, in a moment of colourful pomp and pageantry outside in Friary Court, his Majesty was formally proclaimed King Charles III by Garter King of Arms David White, who shouted: "God Save the King!" Proclamations followed outside the Royal Exchange in the City of London, on Edinburgh's Royal Mile, at Cardiff Castle, Hillsborough Castle in Northern Ireland, and in towns and cities across the UK.

At St James's, the newly named King's Guard raised their bearskin hats three times as they joined in a rousing chorus of: "Three cheers for His Majesty the King. Hip, H hip, hooray!"



Charles addresses the nation for the first time as King (above left) after the death of his mother the Queen. The next day, he is formally proclaimed King by the Accession Council at St James's Palace, witnessed by the Queen Consort and the new Prince of Wales (above). The ceremony includes signing an oath to uphold the security of the Church of Scotland (pictured right)



Charles is affirmed as King at Hillsborough Castle and (left) in Cardiff



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